

# THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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## THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 9TH JUNE.

MR. ARTHUR ARNOLD, the Liberal candidate for the London letter of the *Times* of India, has been reminding his electors that the people of India are very deeply interested in the prosperity of the people of India, as these were their most valuable customers. Speaking on his personal authority, as one who had travelled over India, he said: "It is not too much to say that probably one-half of the revenue of India is transmitted to this island by, for, and on account of the highly-paid English public servants who officer the country in every quarter. Their food supply is from England and America; their fermented drink from France and Burton-upon-Trent. Every expenditure almost that they have is made in England. They send home large sums of money for the education of their children; their carriages and furniture are all imported from this country; and those highly-paid officers make a terrible howl if any import duties are imposed upon English carriages and furniture and things of that sort which are for their own use, but not when duties upon cotton goods imported from England are in question. The Government of India makes a large outlay in this country in military equipments and expenditure of all sorts. It would be a moderate estimate to say that twenty-one millions sterling of the revenue of India is transmitted to England for expenditure or investments. That is about equal to the land rent of India. So that the whole land rent of India is only about sufficient to pay the drain of revenue from India to this country. India is very poor, and England very rich; but what would be said and thought in this country, if the agricultural rent of all England, amounting to about 60 millions a year, were sent to Bombay or Calcutta? Why, the prosperity of India is impossible if that drain is to continue." Mr. Arnold thinks there are many ways of diminishing the drain, and one of them is the employment of Indian "instead of highly-paid English officers."

ON THE motion of Sir David Wedderburn, a return is being prepared of the number of covenanted civil servants (distinguishing Europeans from natives) and military officers of each grade in civil employ, and of the number of Europeans, Eurasians, and natives employed in the Uncovenanted Service, of each grade, in each department in each Presidency, province, and administration in British India and the Native States, showing the office, salaries and allowances of each grade drawing more than 100 rupees per mensem, and distinguishing the aggregate amount paid to all European and native civil servants and military officers, from the aggregate amount paid to the European and native services of the year 1871-72 and a similar return for the year 1856-57. We had suggested the publication of a return of this kind long ago. We wish the return called for had included the latest year, we mean 1878.

THE DUKE of Argyll in his newly written preface to his book on the Eastern Question thus writes about India: "So long as we are under the necessity of holding a country very poor, very wild, and very far from the base of our operations, there is no possibility of effecting those wise economies and those wiser outlays which are demanded by the most vital interests of the people of India. . . . The Government cannot now tell even approximately what income will be required to meet the necessities of the State." Unless India be saved, and that promptly, from "Strachinanity," there is no hope for her.

WE WERE mistaken in stating that the dissenting minutes of the majority of the Council of the Governor General on the cotton duties have been published by order of Parliament on a motion of Sir George Campbell. It would appear that the return had been called for by Lord Northbrook.

IN THE HOUSE of COMMONS Mr. O'Donnell asked the Under-Secretary of State whether it was true that after an action by General Gough's brigade on April 2nd, with the Afghans, "seven moolahs were shot by order of the military commission"; and if so, what article of war, or custom of war, authorises the execution of the priesthood in any country, on the charge of instigating their countrymen to resist invasion?

Mr. Stanhope replied that it would be impossible for him to enquire every day, which correspondents of newspapers chose to make. But Mr. O'Donnell was not to be overawed by an Under-Secretary, and he still pressed to know whether Mr. Stanhope would deem it his duty to enquire into the matter. "Of course," said Mr. Stanhope with a grievous and wearied air, "every Indian subject is closely enquired into." The *Times* of India's correspondent justly remarks, why an occurrence which has been going the round of the English and Continental press, which has formed the theme of leaders in religious newspapers, the lesson of Sunday sermons in many Dissenting pulpits, and the peg on which much of May-meeting rhetoric has been suspended, was not thought of sufficient importance to mention in that full diary of events in Afghanistan which the Home Government receives from India.

SIR GEORGE BALFOUR asked the Under-Secretary for India what parts of India the Indian Famine Commission has visited; what results were brought about; where the Commissioners are at present; what they are doing; when their report may be expected; and finally, what has as yet been the cost? Mr. Stanhope said that the Commission had visited or received deputations from the greater part of India; and the result has been the collection of a great mass of very valuable information which will require considerable time to sift and arrange. That work has been entrusted to Mr. Justice Cunningham and Mr. Elliott, Secretary to the Treasury. "The Commission is now considering its report," added Mr. Stanhope, "and I fear some time must elapse before the report is completed."

TUESDAY, 10TH JUNE.

THE BENGAL TIMES on Mr. Yule again:

The Christian Scriptures teach us that—"if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." And the patriotic sentiment that insists upon the sweetness and propriety of dying for one's country, involves by implication, a preferential sympathy for one's own countrymen. In the face of so very clear an injunction, we are unable to cancel our verdict against the objectionable nature of Mr. Yule's speech, his offensive remark coming as a reproach from one held in such high esteem by Europeans as himself. Now, his expressed preference is what we cannot possibly suffer to pass unchallenged, because it degrades his own countrymen. To deliver such a sentiment in public is to provoke discussion on the respective merits of Europeans and Natives. We hold that the idea of equality between the two races is the fallacy of a maniac.

Poor Mr. Yule! He is "a maniac." Perhaps Dr. Payne will not object to take charge of him. But will the learned doctor first sit upon the "maniac" of Dacca?

A RUMOUR comes from Gilgit that the Afghan prisoners taken by the Badakhshis have been conducted across the Baraghil Pass and there stripped and turned loose, and have made their way into Chitral in a state of great destitution.

IT IS STATED on the Frontier that Mian Gul came to the Bajaur territory a few days ago. All the Khans of Bajaur are hostile to each other. Although Mian Gul tried his best, yet they could not be reconciled to each other. A Mulla and a Fakir are trying their best to excite people for war, but no one pays attention to their preachings, as a rumour has spread to the effect that peace has been concluded between the British and the Amir of Kabul. The Bajauris and the Swatis are exceedingly glad to learn the news of peace.

IN A RECENT Home Despatch to the Bombay Government, the Secretary of State has ruled that judicial service in native States does not qualify officers for appointment to the High Court.

IN ACKNOWLEDGING the receipt from the Government of India of a draft of the Factory Bill the Secretary of State expresses his opinion that the enquiry instituted by the Indian Government into the working of factories in Native States, in view of the expediency of the adoption by those States of a similar measure being considered, is one of considerable practical importance, and he hopes that it may lead to a satisfactory understanding with them on the subject. So the Native States will not escape the contagion of the Exeter Hall malady.

THE PRINCE OF WALES as President of the Royal Commission for the Australian Exhibitions, has written to Lord Cranbrook, expressing a hope that a collection of objects illustrative of the Arts and manufactures of India such as those sent to the Philadelphia Exhibition, may be formed and transmitted direct to Sydney. His Royal Highness attaches much importance to the opportunities these exhibitions afford for promoting friendly intercourse with the colonies, for increasing and developing the demand for works of art and industry and for advancing the interests of trade and commerce in general.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH JUNE.

THE RAILWAY SERVICE GAZETTE is informed that the Government have issued instructions for the establishment in all large stations of Industrial Schools for Anglo-Indians and Eurasians. Why should not Natives be admitted to these schools?

THE FOLLOWING table shows the number of persons apprehended annually in England and Wales for the crimes specified at the head of each column:—

|      | Drunk. | Assaults. | Offences against the person. | Population |
|------|--------|-----------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1860 | 88361  | 86444     | 1802                         | 28778411   |
| 1861 | 83198  | 85448     | 2058                         | 28974382   |
| 1862 | 94908  | 83608     | 2212                         | 29255018   |
| 1863 | 94745  | 97343     | 2655                         | 29433918   |
| 1864 | 100067 | 105208    | 2644                         | 29628571   |
| 1865 | 105310 | 109792    | 2616                         | 29861908   |
| 1866 | 104365 | 109762    | 2355                         | 30076866   |
| 1867 | 100357 | 102855    | 2428                         | 30334992   |
| 1868 | 111465 | 106809    | 2527                         | 30617718   |
| 1869 | 122310 | 108677    | 2396                         | 30913513   |
| 1870 | 131870 | 107127    | 2133                         | 31205444   |
| 1871 | 142343 | 111321    | 2174                         | 31513422   |
| 1872 | 151034 | 116927    | 2082                         | 31895757   |
| 1873 | 182941 | 113909    | 2011                         | 32124598   |
| 1874 | 185730 | 128819    | 2332                         | 32426369   |
| 1875 | 203989 | 122913    | 2702                         | 32749167   |

These figures are suggestive. They show that while other crimes increase and decrease, the vice of drunkenness increases year after year along with the increase of population.

IT IS SAID that General Grant may be elected for the third time the President of the American Republic.

FURTHER information received from Yarkand states that the Chinese Ambans (Governors) are throwing every obstacle in the way of trade between that country and British India. The inhabitants however are anxious for the trade, and have suggested that the Indian Government should obtain from the Emperor of China facilities for the admission of Indian merchants to Yarkand.—*Press Commissioner.*

THE SULTAN of Zanzibar has expressed to Dr. Kirk his gratification at hearing that a telegraph cable is to be laid between the Cape and Aden by which Zanzibar will be placed in direct communication with the rest of the world. He has promised his full assistance and support and has offered to grant any Telegraph Company entrusted with the scheme, the sole and exclusive right for a term of fifty years of landing ocean telegraphic cables from foreign countries, to places in his dominions, he has also signified his willingness to make over to such company free of expense, whatever ground may be required and to construct at his own cost, the necessary buildings built in towns or elsewhere and if it is decided to land the cable on the island of Bawe, as has been suggested, he will give the use of the island so long as it may be required.—*Ditto.*

BY WAY of reply to the cry of Manchester for the repeal of the Indian cotton duties the *Pioneer* says: "It is well known that owing to the heavy duty in England on manufactured tobacco, impossible for India to compete with the English manufacturer of cigars. The present duty is 5s. 4d. lb. on manufactured, 4s. 4d. on manufactured in bond, and 3s. 6d. on unmanufactured tobacco, and it is actually proposed in this year's English budget to raise the duty on cigars 2d. per lb." Is not Indian tea also weighted with a heavy import duty in England? This is free trade.

THE GOVERNMENT of the North Western Provinces has issued the following circular:

"It has frequently been noticed by the Government in petitions from persons who have been degraded or deprived of their situations in the public service that petitioners have not had an opportunity of explaining their conduct and of making their defence before being reduced or dismissed from their appointments. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner accordingly directs that in all cases of punishments and especially in all cases of dismissal the persons concerned shall always be given a hearing before the final order is passed, and a formal proceeding, embodying the statement taken and the reasons of dismissal, shall invariably be recorded."

We hope this circular will be more honored in the observance than in the breach thereof. As matters now go the fates of poor clerks are left to the tender mercies of their official superiors, and the Government as a rule "declines to interfere."

THURSDAY, 12TH JUNE.

WE ARE SORRY to hear of the death from cholera of Babu Chundersekhar Mookerjee, eldest son of the late Babu Mudhoosoodun Mookerjee of Sultangacha, a considerable zemindar of the Hooghly district. The deceased was a public-spirited and liberal-minded gentleman.

A PROJECT for an asylum for Hindu orphans has been set on foot. We are requested to mention that subscriptions will be received by Babu Becharam Chatterjee, late managing proprietor of the *Bengalee*, and Babu Rajendra Nath Dutt.

CHOLERA is making a fearful havoc in the town of Balasore. Our correspondent says: "The daily average of mortality is 15. The Magistrate is doing all that is possible to mitigate the effects of the epidemic by distributing medicine gratis, providing medical relief placed within the easy reach of the suffering people, and removing nuisances of all kinds."

A MEAN-MEER correspondent alludes to an order that Commissariat Gomastahs attached to a field-force are required to put themselves in uniform and use hangers when ordered to attend their regiments in action in the field, and that if they should neglect to do so, they should be seriously punished. But, adds our correspondent, "of what use will arms be to men who were never taught their use. The object of the rule will be attained by providing for the instruction of these Commissariat Gomastahs and Purveyors in the practice of arms in self-defence. The rule has the effect of deterring many from accepting service and those already in employ tremble in their shoes when ordered to accompany a regiment in the field."

THE BANNER OF LIGHT of the 19th April last says: "Quite noteworthy is Peary Chand Mitra's article 'Soul Revelation in India' in the April 5 number of the *Banner of Light*. The subject, its treatment and its Hindu authorship well go to comprise Max Muller's remark that the *Aryas* are the most spiritual of nations. Insight inherent in the spirit, and he who has the keenest insight is in that respect the most spiritual." The *Banner of Light* also announces that Babu Peary Chand Mitra "has it in mind to collect and reprint in some form his admirable contributions to spiritual literature." We are happy to learn that the "spiritual stray leaves" will be shortly issued. One proof of the love of the spirituality of our countrymen is that a large number of native gentlemen have subscribed for a large number of copies to be sent to England and America; as a small number of copies will be left here, such as wish to have the work should lose no time in registering their names for it.

OUR CORRESPONDENT at Ranchee thus writes under date the 11th instant.

To-day is the 11th of June, but yet the weather is as hot as ever. The tantalizing clouds are looked on by the Kols with superstitious horror. They spend days and nights in fasting and worshipping their gods, but rain keeps off. Sometimes the clouds gather very thick, sometimes the sky is quite clear, and sometimes it is majestically decorated by diverse tints. There is a very fine *sloka* by Kalidasa, which I may advantageously adopt to express the weather in this place, that the intensity of heat is so great that the peacock spreads its plumes to protect its head from the sun, regardless of the snake, its food, which rests under its shadow, and the snake, again quite heedless of its prey the frog who calmly resorts under its spreading neck. "More rain, more rain" is the cry everywhere.

Cholera, small-pox, dysentery, &c., &c., are raging with a fury which no medicine can check.

WE HAVE received a letter from Mr. Grant, Secretary to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in which he shows by citing authorities that the disease of glanders is fatal alike to man and beast. He warns the public that "they should be very wary in hiring hack carriages from Native tikka garwans, and for night service in particular."

WE HAVE received the following letter on the subordinate education service:

There seems evidently to be some misapprehension somewhere in regard to the Gazetteing of subordinate educational officers. The orders of the Lieutenant-Governor as conveyed in His Honor's Resolution of the 21st January last were "that all appointments in the first four classes will be made by Government and gazetted." How comes it then that the appointment of Maulvi Syed Abdulla, a third class officer, finds a place among "Educational Notices" signed by Mr. Croft, instead of being as it should have been among the "orders of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal" signed by Mr. Secretary Cockerell? The

"Educational Notices" come along with treasury notices, court notices and other notices signed by subordinate officers of Government in an out-of-the-way part of the Gazette. Surely, this was not the kind of gazettement which the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution contemplated. Nor is this the way in which officers in other departments are usually gazetted. We really do not understand the reason of this exception in the case of educational officers. Even officers, who, in accordance with orders in force before the Resolution of January was published, were gazetted in the proper way, have now it appears lost of that privilege and are coming among "Educational Notices." This indeed is most strange. If this educationally noticing system is to be the order of the day, all standing orders on the matter should be rescinded by a new resolution. Until that is done people will continue to wonder and ask what all this is.

One other thing that strikes us is that Maulvi Abdulla, an officer drawing Rs. 250 a month and one who in three years more will get Rs. 300, has been appointed head master of a third grade Zillah school, the head master of which draws Rs. 100 a month. Before the so-called grade system came into operation, schools and posts were classified; some were first class schools; some second and so on; and men were appointed with reference to the requirements of each class of schools. But we have officers classified now and we see what this is to lead to. We have to-day an officer drawing Rs. 300 appointed to a post hitherto held by a man on Rs. 100. We might some day expect to see an officer on 500 appointed to a post in which one on 200 will do, i.e. Mr. Behrmdt of Patna in the place of Mr. Durham of Darjeeling or Babu Dino Nath Sen in the place of Babu Ram Sundar Basak.

FRIDAY, 13TH JUNE.

MR. ADVOCATE RAMANATHAN, a nephew of the late Sir Mutu Kumaraswamy, has been unanimously elected by the people of Ceylon a member of the Legislative Council of that colony in the room of his deceased uncle.

THE INDIAN HERALD says that there was a good attendance of the Bar of the High Court, N. W. P., on the occasion of Mr. Justice Straight taking his seat for the first time. The Chief Justice, with whom the new Judge sat to hear appeals, introduced him to the Bar, and cordial bows were exchanged by way of greeting. Though young in appearance, the junior Justice, we are told, showed an amount of aptitude and intelligence in dealing with rather nice legal questions connected with Land Acquisition (Act X of 1870), under which the first appeal heard was brought, which augur most auspiciously for the new Judge's success in applying his English experience to Indian laws. Allahabad is fortunate.

MR. J. W. SHERER, C.S.I., who has contributed an interesting article to the new magazine, *Time*, on the Rugby Roll Call, has the following notice of Sir Richard Temple:

In the fifth form, there comes Temple, in whom playful minds found a resemblance to the beadle in *Oliver Twist*, whereby the title of 'Bumble' adhered and still adheres to this remarkable boy. He was not scholastically distinguished at Rugby, but observant eyes saw a very steady pluck about him. If he worked, he worked; when he played, he played; if not with much heart, still with dogged perseverance. He went through everything, keeping his mind intent on the matter in hand. And that is why he has fought his way to a baronetcy—by work effected, not by favor sought. And that is why, when the sinking sun permits people to drive on the Esplanade at Bombay, while the band plays, the barouche-and-four that swings up with outriders, and is the signal for the lifting of all hats, contains no less a person than His Excellency—this same Bumble of the Middle Fifth—who, if life lasts, has a chance of sitting in the House of Lords, which he would not part with for a trifle.

IN REPLY to our observations on the gulf which now divides the European and the Native, the *Times of India* remarks that "the chief bars to social intercourse between the two races come from the caste prejudices of the Natives themselves." Caste prejudices may interfere with eating and drinking, but surely they cannot or ought not to bar friendly intercourse, which need not necessarily be confined to the table. Intellectual association is the highest association which one man can have with another, and is the Indian admitted on equal terms by the Englishman into his home for intellectual companionship? There are certainly exceptions, but such exceptions prove the rule.

WE ARE SORRY to learn from the *Englishman*, that an accident took place last Sunday on the State Railway Line between Gaya and Bankipur. A passenger train left the latter station for the former at 4-30 A.M. When about eighteen miles from Bankipur the line gave way, and the tender and engines were buried up to their axles; five or six waggons were derailed; all, or nearly all, the carriages were more or less damaged; and some of the passengers were slightly injured by the panellings falling about them. The line was however soon cleared. Who was responsible for this work? Is nobody to hang?

It is notified that the P. and O. Company has secured a long extension of its contract for the Australian postal service, but the terminus is to be changed again from Melbourne to Sydney.

AN ITALIAN MUSICIAN, Cassarati, at Simla, stands charged with murder. The *Englishman's* Simla correspondent thus writes about him: "Although the crime with which Cassarati is now charged is a very serious one, much sympathy is expressed for him. In private life he was quiet and gentlemanlike, and his abilities as an accomplished musician and composer

were generally acknowledged and had secured for him a respectable position in society." But we hope the course of justice will not be diverted by the "sympathy of society."

SATURDAY, 14TH JUNE.

THE PRESIDENT of the *Hitoshadhini Sabha* of Dhamrai, Dacca, has sent us a copy of an address presented to Babu Brojendra Coomar Rai Chowdry of Dacca for his liberality in distributing rice to the distressed people in his neighbourhood. Our correspondent says: "He not only distributed rice freely to those who are suffering from distress, but carried it privately to those respectable men who could on no account seek relief publicly." We regret we cannot make room for the address for want of space.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes to have the opinion of our Anglo-Sanskritists on the character of translations of the Vedas by Pundit Dyanund Saraswati, also the views of the Adi-Brahmo Samaj on the difference between the Vedic principles of Raja Rammohun Roy and Pundit Dyanund. Our correspondent should address the gentlemen individually, whose opinions he wishes to know.

IN REPLY to the objection taken to Dr. Payne's holding the appointment of Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum in addition to the duties of Surgeon General of Bengal, to which he has been nominated, the *Pioneer* says: "Dr. Irving, the present Surgeon-General, to this day, we believe, retains his paid connection with the East India Railway, and we have not heard a word of protest on the subject." This fact was not generally known before. But it must have been known to the medicos. Why did they not protest against it?

THE ANCIENT House of Forbes & Co. at Bombay has stopped payment. It was established about a century ago; its liabilities, it is stated, amount to about 25 lakhs, of which about 15 lakhs are due to secured, and 10 lakhs to unsecured, creditors.

SO WE HAVE not heard the last of the Cooke-medal scandal. Mr. Corbyn, the manager of Wilson's circus, made a declaration on the stage at Bombay, in which he said:

I have refrained on all occasions from taking any notice of the 'skits' that have appeared in the different sensational journals of India but as a gentleman holding a high position in His Excellency the Viceroy's Staff, has seen fit to publish a letter over his signature in which there are several *extraneous* statements, I think it becomes me to make myself right in the eyes of the people of India and the world in general. But noting on the advice of friends who have older and much wiser heads than myself, I have concluded to say all I have to say through the Press.

If Mr. Corbyn has any thing to say, why does he not speak out at once? Why this prelude?

STRANGE to say that after Mr. Stanhope had concluded his speech in the House of Commons on the Indian Budget there were not more than four members present! So much for the interest taken in Indian affairs by the members of Parliament!

IT IS RATHER strange that minor Native Princes in charge of our Government generally become Anglicized. The latest instance mentioned is that of the Maharaja of Mysore. We hope he will not be weaned from the orthodox habits of his family.

PRINCE FERROKH Shah, great-grandson of Tipoo Sultan, has gone on a visit to Mysore. He has been cordially received by the people there.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 10th June.—The Honorable R. Bourke, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that Sir Garnet Wolseley had resigned the high Commissionership of Cyprus, and would be succeeded by General Biddulph.

10th.—Colonel Stanley, replying to a question in the House of Commons said that a Committee and not a Royal Commission will conduct the enquiry into our military organisation and consists exclusively of officers, who will consider the advisability of amending the constitution of the army and ascertain the defects of the short service, reserve, and depot systems. Lieutenant Hart, Royal Engineers, has been gazetted to receive the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the Afghan war in rescuing a Sowar from the enemy on the 31st January.

11th.—It is now stated that Russia has adhered to the protest made by the German Consul General to the Khedive. It is stated that Major Cavagnari, in consideration of his services in negotiating with Afghanistan so successfully will be appointed to a Colonelcy and be made a Knight of the Star of India. Obituary.—The Prince of Orange.

12th.—The British Ambassador at Berlin in notifying the suspension of silver sales by the German Government, is preparing to adopt a double standard, like France. The stock of silver in Germany is estimated at ten millions sterling.

12th.—The following is the result of the race for the Ascot Cup:—Isonomy, first; Insulaire, second; Touchet, third. Advices from Capetown dated 24th May, state that a constitution has been granted by high Commissioner to the Transvaal and that the Boers are now satisfied. No important movements have taken place on the side of the British; only few raids and reconnaissances in enemy's country have been made. The dead bodies of those killed on the British side at Isandula have been buried without opposition from the Zulus.

13th.—After a long debate the House of Commons last night read a second time the bill for sanctioning a loan of five millions to the Indian Government. Mr. Goschen said he had authority to state that Germany did not contemplate selling any more silver, and he advised the Ministry to await the natural development of the matter before making any radical

changes in the Indian currency. The Under-Secretary for India concurred in these remarks.

*Capetown, 20th May.*—King Cetewayo has made proposals of peace, but the negotiations have failed in consequence of the British refusing any terms but unconditional surrender. It is believed that Cetewayo's overtures were insincere. A rapid march on Cetewayo's kraal, which Lord Chelmsford had contemplated, has been abandoned. The difficulty experienced in providing transport for an advance in force is increasing. It is expected that Cetewayo with his whole force will attack our positions on the Lower Tugela river. The health of our troops is improving.

*Berlin, 7th June.*—Germany disclaims any intention of interfering in Egyptian matters with a political object.

*St. Petersburg, 7th June.*—Advices from Central Asia state that a Russian expeditionary force has been sent against the Tekke Turkomans, consisting of sixteen battalions of infantry, 2,800 cavalry, and 36 guns. The force left Tshikislar on the 6th instant.

*9th.*—Solovieff, who attempted the Czar's life has been hanged.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications: 1. Report on the Working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces for 1878-79. 2. Report on the Working of the Government Charitable Dispensaries in the Central Provinces for 1878-79. 3. The Indian Law Journal (Bombay) Vol. 1. Nos. 9 and 10. 4. The Employment of Europeans in India, a paper read before the Bengal Social Science Association on May 1st 1879. By Archdeacon Bailey. 5. Messrs Parker & Co's. List of Prices, of Types, Presses &c. for June, 1879. 6. The *Babosai*, a Vernacular Journal of Agriculture, Commerce and Manufacture, edited by Sree Nath Datt, under the patronage of the Government of Bengal. 7. The *Saddarshana-Chintanika* or Studies in Indian Philosophy. Vol. 3 No. 4, 1879. 8. Mr. Gonesh Wasudeo, Managing Member of the Poona Sarbajanik Sabha's statement offered in his evidence before the Famine Commission on the 19th February, 1879.

THERE WERE 263 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 7th June, of which 83 were from cholera, 13 from small-pox, 68 from fever, 14 from bowel complaints, and the rest from other causes; 11 children were still-born and 3 persons died from old age. The deaths amongst non-Asiatics and mixed races were 21.

WE ARE glad to observe that the Indian Association has addressed a letter to Mr. Gladstone on the case of the *Shomprokash*. We hope it will do some good. We wish the letter were addressed earlier.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to record the death of Babu Issen Chunder Mookerjee of Pathuria Ghatta by suicide. The deceased was a gentleman of the sweetest temper and a very amiable disposition and liked by all who knew him. It is lamentable that such a man should have come to such an end.

CALCUTTA and the neighbouring districts, after experiencing the most grilling weather for the last three days, were blessed with most genial and copious showers this evening.

## The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1879.

### REFORM AND RETRENCHMENT.

#### II

#### THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PAY.

LAST week we urged the abolition of the Sixth Member of the Governor General's Council. This week we propose to discuss the pay of His Excellency the Governor General of India. Perhaps the reader is aware that there is not another servant of the Queen who is so well paid as the Governor General of India, and the question is whether in the present exigencies of the State the shears should not be applied to the magnificent salary of the head of the Indian Administration. We may premise by saying that no other country in Europe or America pays its servants so well as England. But compared with the English scale of pay the Indian scale borders we may say on the romantic. Take the highest offices in the United Kingdom. The First Lord of the Treasury or the Prime Minister draws £5,000; the five Principal Secretaries of State, viz., the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, the Colonial Secretary, the Indian Secretary and the War Minister, are paid the like salary, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer the same. In India the Secretaries to the Government of India and the Members of the Board of Revenue are paid Rs. 50,000 or £5,000 per annum. Then the First Lord of the Admiralty draws £4,500, the Under-Secretaries of State £1,500 each, Lord President of the Council

£2,000, Vice-President the same, President of the Board of Trade £2,000, Lord Privy Seal £2,000, President Local Government Board, £2,000, First Commissioner of Works £2,000, Post Master General £2,500, and so on. The great law officers of the Crown are paid more highly. Thus the Lord Chancellor is paid £10,000, Attorney General, £7,000 and fees, the Solicitor General £6,000 and fees, Lord Chancellor, Ireland, £3,000. Let us turn to the colonies. The Governor of Ceylon is paid £7,000, the Governor of Hong Kong £5,000, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Labuan £1,100, the Governor of Mauritius £6,000, the Governor of the Straits Settlement £5,000, the Governor General of Canada £10,000, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Quebec £2,000, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick £1,750, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia £1,400, Lieutenant Governors of British Columbia £2,000 and £1,600 each, the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edwards' Island £1,400, the Governor of Newfoundland £2,000, the Governor of British Guiana £5,000, the Lieutenant Governor of Honduras £1,800, the Governor of New South Wales £7,000, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand £7,000, the Governor-in-Chief of South Australia £5,000, the Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania £4,000, the Governor-in-Chief of Victoria £4,000, the Governor-in-Chief of Western Australia £2,500, the Governor of Jamaica £7,000, and the Lieutenant Governor ditto £2,000, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Trinidad £2,000, the Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands £3,000, Governor of Barbados, £4,000, Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent £1,300, Lieutenant Governor of Granada £1,300, Lieutenant Governor of Tobago £1,100, the Governor of Bahamas £2,000, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermudas £2,746, the Governor Commander-in-Chief and High Commissioner of the Cape Colony £5,000, Lieutenant Governor of Natal £2,500, Western African Settlements, £4,000, Governor of Falkland Islands £1,000, Governor of St. Helena £2,000, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar £5,000, Governor of Malta, £5,000. We will turn next to the Diplomatic Department. The British Minister, Argentine Republic, £3,300, Austro-Hungarian Empire £3,000, Belgium, £3,480, Brazil £4,000, Central America £2,000, China £6,000, Colombia, £3,600 Egypt £2,000, France, £15,000, German Empire £7,000, Greece, £3,500, Hawaiian Islands, £1,100, Italy £5,000, Japan, £4,000 Holland £4,000, New Granda, £2,000, Persia, £5,000, Peru £2,000, Portugal, £4,000, Russia, £7,000 Spain, £5,000, Sweden, £3,000, Switzerland, £2,000, Turkey £8,000, United States, £5,000. We have now surveyed the whole range of salaries of the highest British Officers in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and the Foreign Courts, and there is not a single post, which carries the salary paid to the Governor General of India. The highest salary paid is £10,000 to the Governor General of Canada, and to the British Minister in the court of France. The Governor Generalship of Canada is now held by the Queen's son-in-law, the Marquis of Lorne. The only office, the emoluments of which at all approach those of the Governor Generalship of India, is that of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, but the salary of that high dignity is less than that of the Viceroy and Governor General of India. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is paid £20,000, whereas the Governor General of India Rs. 2,50,800 or £25,000 per annum. But it should be remembered that until comparatively recent times the title "Lord Lieutenant" of Ireland was often honorary, being bestowed on young princes and others, who never visited the country. The actual rulers were the "Deputies" or Lords Justices, when the Government was entrusted to a Committee as is now done on the occasional absence of the Lord Lieutenant. Of these honorary governors may be mentioned, Edward, son of Henry III., 1252; George, Duke of Clarence, 1461; Richard, son of Edward IV., 1479; Edward, son of Richard III., 1483; the Earl of Lincoln, 1484; Henry, son of Henry VII., 1494; the Duke of Richmond, 1530; and the Duke of Albemarle, 1660. When the Irish kings made their formal submission to Henry II., in 1171,

he took the title of Lord of Ireland, and appointed Hugh Lacy its Custos, or Governor, with a military colleague, Richard de Clare (better known as Strongbow), who was called the Warden. In 1181 John Lacy and Richard Peche had the government committed to them under the name of Justices. In 1185 they were superseded by Prince John, who was styled, by grant from his father, Lord of Ireland; he, however, retired in a few months, leaving the government in the hands of Hugh Lacy the younger, as his Lieutenant, the first mention of that title. In 1184 the Deputy first named was Peter Pipard. King John exercised the government of Ireland in person in 1210, as did Richard II. in 1393 and 1399. Lionel, Duke of Clarence, also acted in person in 1361 and 1366; as did Roger, Earl of March, in 1395; Thomas of Lancaster, afterwards Duke of Clarence, in 1401 and 1408; Edmund, Earl of March, in 1423; and Richard, Duke of York, in 1449. In 1700 the title "Lord Lieutenant" was given to the Earl of Rochester, and there has been but one Lord Deputy since his time. The authority, whom we quote in this connection, says: "The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland appointed by each successive Ministry, exercises almost regal sway. He has a salary of £20,000 and other allowances, but being usually a nobleman of large private fortune, his expenditure is frequently more than three times the amount received." The Governor General of India, besides his salary of rupees two lakhs and a half per annum, has an establishment and sumptuary allowance of Rs. 120,000, which is sometimes exceeded, and a tour allowance averaging a lakh of rupees per annum. Formerly the Governor General was paid Rs. 300,000 or £30,000 per annum, but Lord William Bentinck, blessed be his memory! set a noble example of self-sacrifice by reducing the pay of his exalted office to Rs. 250,000 or £25,000. Now, we submit, if retrenchment is to be carried out in right earnest, it should begin from the top. We do not see the slightest reason why the Governor General of India should be paid five times the salary of the Prime Minister of England, and two and a half times that of the Governor General of Canada, which is the largest and richest colony in the possession of Great Britain or Rs. 50,000 more than the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who exercises almost regal sway. If the early Governors General of India were paid an unprecedentedly high salary, it was because the expatriation they suffered carried in their days great hardships. They had communications then with the parent country scarcely once in six months. Service then meant for them banishment for the term of their office. Now-a-days India and England have been brought within a few hours' communication through the wire. Then the Suez Canal has so much facilitated intercourse that within a little more than three weeks things may be had from England without the least difficulty. In the next place the responsibilities of the Governor General have been greatly lightened by the present system of telegraphic communication. The Governor General has now practically become the *naib* of the Secretary of State, and if the responsibilities have been reduced, why should not the salary be reduced? Again, in former days the Governor General was his own Finance Minister, but now the financial responsibility rests upon a distinct member of the Supreme Council, though in theory the Governor General is responsible for all the acts of the Government of India. If money and human ingenuity can make any man happy the Governor General of India ought to be one of the happiest men on the face of the earth. He does not know the variations of the Indian climate, he spends the cold weather in Calcutta and the hot weather in Simla, so the Indian sun does not throw his liquid fire upon him. And in all his movements for comfort and convenience the State pays his expenses. When the high salary of the Governor General was fixed, the object was to draw first class talents from England to India. It did succeed now and then. A Cornwallis, a Wellesley, a Bentinck, an Ellenborough, a Dalhousie, and a Canning were worth the whole salary and more, but it has now become the reign of mediocrity. And if a Duke would condescend to come out to India for a lakh and a quarter of rupees per annum, we do not see any reason why a Baron or Viscount

should be paid two lakhs and a half? Perhaps there may not be much difference in point of administrative ability between the two. On the contrary, we submit a Duke may prove by far the more enlightened and generous ruler than a Baron. A Duke may possess a will of his own and may also know his own mind, while a Baron may be wide at sea and a victim of "Strachinanity." Be that as it may, in proposing a reduction of the salary of the Governor General, we do not mean to advocate such a reduction as to lower the dignity of the office. We would pay the Governor General of India the same salary, which is paid to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, we mean two lacs of rupees or £20,000 per annum. This is not a small sum. This will be double the salary which the Queen's son-in-law receives as the Governor General of Canada and four times the sum paid to the President of the United States. It needs be borne in mind that since the transfer of the Government of India from the Company to the Crown the salaries of the members of the Supreme Council have been reduced from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 80,000 each, the salary of the Chief Justice of the High Court from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 72,000, and of the Puisne Judges (we mean in both cases the Supreme Court,) from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 50,000, and if by these reductions the dignity of those offices has not suffered, why should that of the office of the Governor General suffer by reason of the reduction of a fifth of the salary attached to it? The sumptuary allowances will remain intact, and the tour expenses will continue to be paid as now. As Lord Lytton seems to have roused himself to the necessity of economy, and as we believe His Lordship will make a strong and strenuous effort to restore equilibrium between income and expenditure by vigorous and unsparing retrenchment, before he lays down the sceptre he cannot we respectfully submit do better than set an example of self-sacrifice in his own person. If he will by a single stroke of his pen reduce the pay of his own high office by rupees fifty thousand per annum, he will at once silence the lips of all malcontents, whose pay may be reduced or whose offices may be abolished. He has suffered severely but not unjustly in the estimation of both the Indian and the English public pandering to the Manchester proclivities of his chief; let him by his policy of retrenchment shew that he has not lost sight of the interests of the myriad millions of India entrusted to his guardianship.

#### THE DISSENTS.

ALL honor to Mr. Whitley Stokes, Mr. River Thompson, Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, and Sir Andrew Clarke, for the bold stand they have made in the discharge of their high functions. All honor to them for doing their duty by the millions of this country, undeterred by the overwhelming authority of the Viceroy, the Secretary of State, and Her Majesty's Government. All honor to them for giving a tongue to the dumb millions by stating at length and with great force their reasons against the repeal of the cotton duties. All honor to them for so ably, courageously, and nobly vindicating their position and responsibilities as the Councillors of the Empire. All honor to them for speaking out the truth fearlessly and unreservedly. They have not only justified the high and sacred trust reposed in them by the sovereign, but have shed an additional lustre upon the English name. The Secretary of State might be angry with them, but India and Great Britain, aye, the civilized world, which honors truth, honesty, and virtue admire their sense of duty and justice, their rectitude of purpose, their independence. The Secretary of State as might be expected has cast his frowns upon them. Lord Cranbrook is reported to have used in the House of Lords the following language in respect of the Dissents: "With reference to the Budget, a despatch was sent Home, and on that the Council could express their opinions in what terms they pleased; and the noble Duke had quoted a specimen of the very coarse terms which had been used. Some of those opinions had become pamphlets and rhetorical expositions, instead of argumentative protests. It certainly was a novelty that Members of Council should undertake to impute motives to their chief and

those acting in the Government of India here and abroad. The Council in giving their reasons for dissenting had used language which, coming from an inferior to a superior, was indecorous. The system was one which, if used in a fair, reasonable manner, was a good one, but he must enter his protest against the language which had been lately used." No wonder that the Secretary of State should feel annoyed with the members of the Governor General's Council, because they have not minced matters, because they have dared to call a spade a spade, because they have not been frightened by the authority of the Viceroy and Her Majesty's Government. It was bad enough that public opinion in India and England has condemned the selfish and iniquitous policy of Government, but it was far worse when the public voice was echoed in the Council Chamber. But why should the Secretary of State complain of the dissenting members? Do they sit in the Council only to register the decrees of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State? Why should they not lay bare the motives of their chief, if those motives were questionable? They did not publish their opinions to the world—it is Parliament, which is responsible for the publication. What is the meaning of the Secretary of State's remark that "the Council in giving their reasons for dissenting had used language which, coming from an inferior to a superior, was indecorous?" Do the members of the Council occupy in relation to the Viceroy "the position of an inferior to a superior?" Do they not constitute his colleagues? Should they approach His Excellency with bended knees, folded hands and bated breath? Lord Cranbrook called the language of the dissenting members "indecorous"—was his own language towards them decorous? His Lordship ought to remember that the dissents have vindicated British rule in the eyes of the millions of India, who now see that the measure which the Viceroy has carried had been strongly objected to by the responsible councillors of the empire.

Lord Cranbrook was right in stating that the dissent of four members of the Council out of six against the decision of their chief was a "novelty." There is not another such instance on record. There have certainly been cases in which individual members of the Council have dissented from the opinion of the Governor General. Sir John Peter Grant's dissent against Lord Dalhousie's decision for the annexation of Oudh was a notable instance of this kind. But rarely did the Governor General carry a measure against the opinions and views of the majority of his Council. The Secretary of State ought to have considered that the unrighteousness of the measure must have been too glaring when four honorable and trusted members of the Council could not reconcile it to their conscience to vote for it. And who are those men? They are not violent or obstinate men. They are noted for calmness of judgment and absence of partizan feeling. Mr. Whitley Stokes' minute shows that he has gone entirely upon reason and argument, as became a jurist, and not upon feeling. Mr. Rivers Thompson is an officer, who throughout his successful career has been distinguished for his high conscientiousness. He would rather cut off his hand than knowingly do an act of injustice. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot is the Nestor of the Council, and if he had been persuaded that the measure was really necessary in the interests of India he would have never raised his voice against it. Sir Andrew Clarke has no Indian bias, and if any thing he would have been naturally inclined to support the Viceroy, but the cause was so bad that he could not conscientiously give his adhesion to it. And what is the verdict of these honorable members of Council? They have viewed the question from different stand-points, but have come to the same conclusion. We have analyzed the minutes below, and will not therefore dwell upon them in this article. We will only sum up their opinions. Mr. Whitley Stokes, who is thoroughly logical in his minute, holds plainly that the remission of the cotton duties under the Tariff Act without the intervention of the legislature was abuse of executive authority. He says: "The power to exempt goods from Customs duties was originally conferred by Act XVIII. of 1870,

and was merely intended to relieve the Executive from the useless and troublesome formality of coming from time to time to the Indian Legislature, to make in the tariff petty alterations which that legislature, if applied to, would have made at once. The change now proposed is of a very different character. I have reason to think that it would never be sanctioned by the Legislative Council unless indeed arguments were brought forward in its favor far more cogent than those that I have heard. The proposed exemption of cotton goods, if made by a mere executive order, will thus resemble what lawyers call a fraud on the power, and there is, unfortunately, no court of equity to relieve the people of India against it." Mr. Rivers Thompson, while basing his arguments chiefly on financial grounds, justly resents the interference of English politics with Indian questions. He says that "there is no surplus in the most restricted sense of Indian finances to admit of reduction of any taxes; that the famine insurance fund is gone, and if famine arises, its cost must be met by extra taxation; but it has also the graver aspect of exciting the very injurious suspicion that the Government has been wanting in good faith, and that the measure has all the appearance of the subordination of the reasonable claims of the Indian Administration to the necessities of English politics." Nothing could be more strong than this, and yet every word that Mr. Thompson has written is true. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot is the most emphatic. He has argued at length on both the financial and political aspects of the question. Referring to the probable political effects of the measure he writes: "It is very undesirable that an impression should exist, which, if it were well founded, would go far to justify the forebodings of those who deprecated the transfer of the direct Government of India from the East India Company to the Crown, on the ground that India would be sacrificed to the exigencies of political parties in Parliament. A measure seriously affecting the finances of India has been and is being, pressed upon Parliament by a powerful section of the English mercantile community, and the general opinion is that that pressure has so far produced an effect, that at a juncture of the gravest financial difficulty and anxiety, the Government of India has been impelled to incur a sacrifice of revenue which the most ordinary considerations of financial prudence should have led it to retain, with the certainty that the present concession will only encourage further pressure until the whole of the particular branch of the state revenue which has been the subject of attack shall have been abandoned." Sir Alexander grows almost pathetic as he goes on. He says:

"And this has been done at a time when we are engaged in war; when we have very recently emerged from a calamitous famine; when we have in consequence re-imposed direct taxation of a notoriously unpopular, and, in its practical working, often of an oppressive description, which, having been raised for a special purpose, we are forced to divert to other purposes; and when the Government of India has scarcely recovered from the odium which it incurred by its legislation restricting the license of the vernacular press. This last-mentioned measure was one of which I was personally in charge, and which, in concurrence with the Governor-General, and with my colleagues in Council, I deemed to be called for by important political considerations; but important as those considerations in my judgment were, and important as I still regard them, I do not hesitate to say that nothing would have induced me to have been a party to the imposition of restrictions on the Press if I could have foreseen that within a year of the passing of the Vernacular Press Act the Government of India would be embarked on a course which in my opinion is as unwise and ill-timed as it is destructive of the reputation for justice upon which the prestige and political supremacy of the British Government in India so greatly depend. And here I must remark that the slight value which in some influential quarters is now attached to the popularity of our rule with our native subjects has for some time past struck me as a source of grave political danger. The British Empire in India was not established by a policy of ignoring popular sentiment and of stigmatizing all views and opinions which are opposed to certain favourite theories as the views and opinions of foolish people. Nor will our rule be long maintained if such a policy be persisted in.

What a confession! The stout defender of the Vernacular Press Act, aye the mover of it, says that if he could have foreseen that within a year of the enactment of that Act the Government would commit such a grievous wrong to the national conscience by sacrificing the Indian revenue for the exigencies of English politics, he would not have been "a party to the imposition of restrictions on the press." In other words, he has been betrayed—sadly betrayed. He had taken his repose in a bed of sands which has been washed away by the dash of a single wave of the party interest of England. Sir Alexander is honest and truthful. He is grossly disappointed.

ed, and so he has in emphatic terms given expression to his disappointment.

What is the moral of these dissents? Do they not shew a marked want of confidence on the part of the majority of the Council in their chief? If this had occurred in a constitutional Government, the chief would have resigned. But the Governor General of India has authority under the law to overrule his Council. How far that authority was rightly exercised in this particular matter will be discussed in Parliament. But it is open to the public to consider, whether the Council is likely to fulfil its functions if in ordinary cases of this kind, on which no issues regarding the stability of the empire or its future depend, the opinions of the majority should be set at naught by the Governor General. There may be emergencies when the Viceroy should have the authority to take the whole responsibility in his own hands, but those emergencies ought to be properly defined. The Governor General is undoubtedly responsible for the good government of the country, but when a Council is associated with him, it ought not to be reduced to a nonentity.

#### PARALLEL PASSAGES.

It is interesting to compare the statements made in the address of the British Indian Association to the Viceroy on the subject of the cotton duties with those contained in the dissenting minutes of the Majority of the Supreme Council on the same subject. We give the parallel passages below:

##### *British Indian Association.*

The present financial position of India is, indeed, critical. A terrible and wide-spread famine ravaged Southern India for nearly two years; millions of persons have died from starvation and disease notwithstanding the most benevolent exertions of Government; a dire scarcity overtook last year large tracts in Northern India where also thousands of distressed population succumbed to disease and death; in other parts of the country considerable distress prevails owing to enormous rise in the price of provisions, and yet at this time of national tribulation the Government has considered its duty to impose additional taxation to the extent of about a million and a half. Within the last three years the increase of taxation, imperial and provincial with the Bengal Road Cess, we believe has come to about three millions per annum.

On the other hand notwithstanding the earnest desire of Your Excellency's Government to reduce expenditure, there seems to be little prospect of relief in that direction. Again, nearly one-eighth of the Indian revenue is dependent upon the caprice of a foreign nation, to wit, the opium revenue. Further, owing to the depreciation of silver, there is an annual drain upon the Indian Treasury from three to four millions in the shape of loss by exchange in the remittance of Home Charges. Over and above this, the Indian revenue has been burdened with the cost of the Afghan War under a recent Resolution of Parliament. Thus, the out-look of Indian Finance is far from cheering, and the tax-payers of India could not but consider it a grave misfortune, if more than four-fifths of a million of revenue derived from the import duty were sacrificed by its repeal, and fresh taxation, which is unavoidable under the circumstances, were had recourse to in order to recoup that loss.

##### *Mr. Whitley Stokes.*

Firstly, because the financial condition of this country is so deplorably bad that we cannot afford to lose even twenty lakhs a year, which sum is said to be about the annual cost of the proposed exemption. We have spent our Famine Insurance Fund, or what was intended to be such. We are carrying on a costly war with Afghanistan. We may any day have to begin one with the King of Burma. Our estimates show a deficit. We have now to borrow five crores in India, and we are begging for two millions sterling from England. Our income is almost stationary. Our opium revenue is precarious. And our difficulties arising from the depreciation of silver seem for some years at all events likely to increase rather than diminish.

##### *Mr. Rivers Thompson.*

If any idea has prevailed in England and I am afraid from some inadvertent expressions in Parliament in connexion with the expenses of the Afghan war, it has prevailed, that India would now possess a surplus available for the remission of taxation, the financial statement which has just been made public must dispel such illusion. I have never seen an official document which contained a more depressing representation of present facts, or which foreshadowed a gloomier prospect in the future.

It is true that no extra taxation has been imposed in the present Budget for the purpose of making up the reduction of the cotton import duty now effected; but with an unfinished war on our North Western Frontier, with threatening complications with the Burmese Government, with the very severe and annually increasing losses imposed upon the Government of India by the fall in exchange, and at a time when the Finance Minister has to raise a loan of five millions in India and to get another loan of two millions raised in England to cover the expenses of the year. I fear there is too much reason to anticipate that the prediction will be verified before the year closes, that "it will become necessary to take measures of a most serious nature for the improvement of the financial position."

##### *Sir Alexander Arbuthnot.*

Looking to these facts and bearing in mind that the war in Afghanistan is not yet at an end and that the political horizon in the direction of Burma is exceedingly threatening. I should have deemed it very doubtful whether the present was an opportune time for the remission of duties which has now

been carried out, even if the financial forecast for the ensuing year had not been more unfavourable than the financial results of the year now about to close. When, however, I turn to the forecast for 1879-80 and when I find that this forecast provides for a deficit of 1,395,000L., while the Famine Insurance Fund upon the necessity of which so much stress has been laid, has to be altogether suspended for the present any doubts that I might have entertained are replaced by the most unhesitating conviction that it would have been scarcely possible to select a more unsuitable time, either for a reduction of the cotton duties or for any other reduction of indirect taxation. Not only are we at the present moment engaged in a war with Afghanistan, the duration and consequent cost of which are still quite uncertain while affairs in Upper Burma have recently taken such a turn that we have thought it right to authorise our Resident at the Court of the King of Burma to exercise his discretion as to quitting his post and have been compelled to send considerable reinforcements for the protection of British Burma; but our main financial difficulty, that arising from the heavy fall in the value of silver is of such a nature—and it is so impossible to affirm that the evil will not continue and go on increasing—that we have been forced to announce to the people of India that "it is extremely difficult to follow any settled financial policy for the Government cannot even approximately tell what income will be required to meet the necessary expenditure of the State."

##### *British Indian Association.*

It is observable that the import duty on cotton goods has a double advantage. In the first place while it is almost nominal in its incidence, it is highly productive. The consumers of cotton goods hardly feel that they pay a tax upon their clothing; and these consumers are not confined to the territories directly under British sway within the Indian continent. The people of the Native States, who by reason of their proximity cannot but participate in the blessings of Western civilization diffused by the British Indian Government, make no pecuniary contributions towards the maintenance of that Government, but as consumers of the cotton goods they contribute their quota to the small tax levied upon them. The incidence of the tax is thus so wide-spread that the pressure per head on an average is a little more than half an anna per annum. No one, therefore, complains of this inappreciable impost upon cotton goods. The burden upon the mass of the population is in reality insignificant inasmuch as the duty on coarse goods has been already abolished and as the climate dispenses for the poorer classes with the necessity of profuse clothing. It is the richer classes only, who largely consume cotton goods, especially of the finer qualities, which are now practically subject to taxation, but with regard to which the duty offers no protection in consequence of absence of competition in this country; but even upon the richer classes the burden is not heavy, nor would it be just or sound in policy to do away with a fruitful source of revenue for the relief of those, who are well able to bear it.

##### *Mr. Whitley Stokes.*

The present duty on cotton goods is not, so far as I know, complained of by any one except the Manchester manufacturers and the merchants in India who are interested in importing Manchester goods. When we have got a tax to which the people who pay it are accustomed and of which they do not complain, it surely is unwise to give up that tax and replace it as we must, by some new and odious burden. Apart from the trifling we obtain as tributes and *nezakas* from the Native States the only way in which we can get those States to pay anything towards their proper share of expenditure in keeping the peace of India and protecting it from invasion is by taxing their consumption of salt and by levying import duties on the cotton goods which are landed at our ports and pass through our territories into theirs. To give up any part of those duties, therefore, amounts to a relinquishment *pro tanto* of the means of making the Native States contribute as they clearly ought, to the expenditure above-mentioned.

##### *British Indian Association.*

In the second place the import duty upon cotton goods is an indirect tax upon the consumers regulated by their own wants and means. The experience, which has been gained from time to time in the working of direct taxation in this country, has, we humbly submit, made it clear that that form of taxation is utterly unsuited to the circumstances of the people of India. By habits of thought, traditions, temper and character they are unable to resist the oppressions, which necessarily flow from the levy of a direct tax in this country. Although the Government has been most anxious to prevent abuses in the administration of direct taxes, it cannot be denied that it has not been successful in its efforts. Whether it be the Income tax, the License tax or the Municipal tax, it has become almost an axiomatic truth that the tax-payer, particularly of the poorer class, has to suffer the loss of one anna illegally received for every anna legally recovered from him, and the odium necessarily falls upon the Government, which levies the tax. In exceptional cases only it needs be remembered the complaints of the aggrieved tax-payers reach the ears of the superior authorities. In the majority of cases the tax-payers are poor, ignorant, and timid, and they therefore nurse their sorrows in silence and solitude. But the feeling of dissatisfaction and discontent, which a direct tax engenders and fosters, is deep and wide-spread. Hence it has been that some of the most eminent Indian authorities including two of Your Excellency's most distinguished predecessors, the late Earl Mayo, and the Right Hon'ble the Earl of Northbrook, have discountenanced the increase of direct taxation in this country. Indeed, if the state of the finances did admit of the reduction of taxation, we would venture to solicit Your Excellency to consider whether there are not other taxes, which from their nature, incidence, and attendant evils do not deserve priority of consideration for repeal.

##### *Mr. Whitley Stokes.*

We have exhausted all gainful sources of indirect taxation and for every tax we surrender we must therefore impose a direct tax. Knowing as I do, the horror (in my opinion the reasonable horror) of new direct taxation which is felt by the natives of India I cannot think it wise to do anything which must lead to its imposition. It is painfully clear that the time has not arrived for even a partial fulfilment of the undertaking that the import duty on cotton goods should be repealed as soon as the financial condition of India permitted.

##### *British Indian Association.*

It would be presumptuous on our part to suggest any comparison between the lines of policy pursued by the imperial country towards her colonies and her Indian dependency, but we solicit permission to remark that situated as India is, she looks up to Your Excellency as the Representative of the British Crown in this country for the protection and advancement of her interests. She has no voice in Parliament, in the Council of the Secretary of State or in the Council of Your Excellency; unlike the inhabitants of the colonies her children have no share in the task of raising or administering the revenues; she relies entirely and absolutely on the sense of justice and responsibility of those placed in authority over her; she feels deeply grateful for the single-minded zeal with which her rulers administer public affairs; and she reposes every confidence in Your Excellency's Government for a just and righteous decision on the momentous question under notice.

##### *Mr. Whitley Stokes.*

Nothing will ever induce the people of India to believe that the proposed exemption, if made, has been made as no doubt we shall say it has, solely in their interest. They will be convinced by their newspapers (which are read aloud in every bazaar) that it has been made solely in the interest of Manchester and for the benefit of the Conservative party who are, it is alleged, anxious to obtain the Lancashire vote at the coming elections. Of course the people of India will be wrong; they always must be wrong when they impute selfish motives to the ruling race. Nevertheless, the evil political results likely to follow from this popular conviction should not be ignored and should, if possible, be avoided.

##### *Sir Alexander Arbuthnot.*

There can be no doubt that the people of India attribute the action which has been taken by Her Majesty's Government in this matter to the influences which have been brought to bear upon it by persons interested in the English cotton trade or in other words by the manufacturers of Lancashire. It is notorious that this impression has prevailed throughout India from the time just four years ago when the Marquis of Salisbury informed a large body of Manchester manufacturers that the Government of India would be instructed to provide for the gradual abolition of the import duties on cotton goods. When Lord Northbrook's Government a few months afterwards adopted the very moderate measure of imposing an import duty on raw cotton not the produce of continental Asia or Ceylon, and of lowering the tariff valuation on cotton goods the Native Press was full of declamations against the new principle which it was alleged was being introduced into the Government of India of conducting that Government for the benefit of a particular section of the people of England, without reference to the interests of the people of India. This feeling was greatly strengthened by the language used in Lord Salisbury's despatch of the 11th November 1875, wherein (paragraph 10) he referred to the duty on cotton goods as placing the manufacturers of England and those of India in a position of political hostility to each other and in subsequent passages put forward "the claims of the English manufacturers," in order to prop so that they should be satisfied by the abolition of the duty on cotton manufactures. The same feeling has very recently found expression in the address presented to His Excellency the Governor-General by the British Indian Association—an address which I am bound to say appears to me to contain a correct enunciation of the principles which ought to guide the Government of India in this matter. Nor is this feeling limited to the native community. From communications which have been received from the Chambers of Commerce at Madras and Calcutta it is evident that the feeling is shared by the leading representatives of the European mercantile community in those cities.

I am convinced that I do not overstate the case when I affirm my belief that there are not at the present time a dozen officials in India, who do not regard the policy which has been adopted in this matter, as a policy which has been adopted, not in the interests of India, not even in the interests of England, but in the interests, or the supposed interests, of a political party, the leaders of which deem it necessary at any cost to retain the political support of the cotton manufacturers in Lancashire.

Let the reader compare the above passages with the reply of Lord Lytton to the British Indian Association, and say whether the rebuke to the Association, if justifiable at all, was not equally applicable to His Excellency's colleagues. The Association have the supreme solace that if they have "calumniated" the Government, they are in good company, for the majority of the Supreme Council have echoed what they had with due deference stated to the Viceroy.

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

IN THE preceding article we have given parallel passages from the memorial of the British Indian Association and the dissenting minutes of the majority of the Council of the Governor General on the remission of the cotton duties. In the present article we propose to compare certain passages from the reply of the Viceroy to the British Indian Association with those in the dissenting minutes. His Excellency thus addressed the Association:

You have attributed to the Government of India views which it has publicly repudiated; you have imputed to the Parliament of England, and the Ministers of the Crown, satisfied acquiescence in a state of things which they have distinctly condemned and you have ignored the duty, at all times incumbent on Her Majesty's Indian Administration, to act in honest accordance with the principles laid down for the guidance of its action by the authority from which its own is derived. As the representative of the Sovereign of India, I regret that such language should have been held to me by the representatives of some of Her Majesty's most favoured Indian subjects; and as the responsible guardian of the general interests of the people of India, I notice with disappointment and surprise that you who represent to some

extent the wealthiest class in India whilst deprecating forms of taxation such as the Bengal Land Cesses which fall mainly on your own class, have not shrunk from advocating and urging on my adoption other forms of taxation which fall almost exclusively on the great body of the poor.

The senior member of the Council, Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, remarks that "the address of the British Indian Association I am bound to say, appears to me to contain a correct enunciation of the principles which ought to guide the Government of India in this matter. Sir Alexander then proves conclusively that the opinions expressed by the Association are shared by the merchants and officials.

Again, the Viceroy says:

So far as I understand your address, its chief object is to protest against any further measures for the removal of the Indian Import Duties on cotton goods. In your reference to this important question you commence with the statement that the "economic part of it has long since been disposed of by the Government of India." You then quote passages from the orders of the Government of India and those of the Secretary of State; and you conclude your references with an allusion to the action taken by the House of Commons on the question. Any one unacquainted with the facts, thus referred to might suppose from the terms of your address that the views it expresses have been approved by the House of Commons and the Secretary of State for India. But that is notoriously not the case. The truth is that these views have been condemned by the House of Commons, by the Secretary of State, by the Government of India and by myself personally as the responsible head of the Government in language as strong and explicit as language can possibly be. I must here remind you of the decision adopted by the House of Commons without a division and embodied in the following resolution:—

"That, in the opinion of this House, the duties now levied upon cotton manufactures imported into India being protective in their nature and contrary to sound financial policy, ought to be repealed as soon as the financial condition of India will admit."

This, Gentlemen, is the decision of an authority from whose judgment in such matters there is virtually no appeal. It is a decision which the Ministers of the Crown and the Government of India have solemnly and repeatedly pledged themselves to carry out. Of this decision I have frequently expressed my unreserved personal approval; and I desire to take this opportunity of once more declaring without ambiguity, my settled determination to give to this sound decision the earliest and the widest practical effect in my power.

On this point Mr. Rivers Thompson remarks:

With the acceptance, however, of this principle, as enunciated by the late Secretary of State for India, and affirmed by the House of Commons in the resolution that "the duties now levied upon cotton manufactures imported into India being protective in their nature are contrary to sound commercial policy, and ought to be repealed without delay," it is impossible to set aside the condition which attaches to every public utterance and every official statement that has been made on the subject, viz., that the fulfilment of the pledges to gradually remove these duties was dependent upon the satisfactory condition of the finances in India. Such a proviso formed a part of the resolution which has already been quoted. It was recognized as an essential feature of the measure in the speeches of every Secretary of State and Viceroy who has had to deal with the question; and if the impending motion in the House of Commons at the instance of the member for Blackburn has had anything to do with the action which His Excellency has sanctioned in the present instance, there too the whole contention as to the desirability of further relief is based on the assumption that "the surplus of Indian revenue affords the means of doing so."

Sir Alexander Arbuthnot is more emphatic. He says:

Allusion is made in the Budget resolution to the resolution adopted by the House of Commons on the 11th July 1877, in favour of a repeal of the cotton duties. Admitting that any resolution passed by either House of Parliament is entitled to implicit respect from the Government of India, and assuming for the sake of argument, that the duties which have now been remitted may have been in some measure protective—on which point however the members of the Commission, upon whose report the decision of the Governor General purports to have been based, have carefully guarded themselves from expressing an opinion—I must be permitted to observe that the step which has now been taken is not only not rendered necessary by the resolution in question, but is directly at variance with the condition embodied in it, which is to the effect that the repeal of the cotton duties is only to be carried out "so soon as the financial condition of India will admit." By the resolution of the House of Commons the Government of India were in no way set free from the responsibility which belongs to them for maintaining the solvency of the State, but in no way justifies them in reducing this particular source of revenue in the face of a serious financial deficit.

What a difference between the Viceroy and his colleagues is indicated by the above extracts. While Lord Lytton would truckle to the party interests of the Home Government Sir Alexander Arbuthnot would not yield his sense of duty to any consideration. And who is the greater man of the two?

The Viceroy next says:

I do not feel called upon to discuss with the Members of your Association the principles or details of a policy thus deliberately adopted and repeatedly proclaimed. Personally I am convinced that it is the only sound fiscal policy as regards the true commercial interests of the country it is my present duty to administer. But on this point, even were my convictions less strong (than they are) I should still deem it my duty as the present guardian of India's highest political interests to endeavour to close as soon as possible a perfectly fruitless and increasingly irritating controversy.

What do His Excellency's colleagues say on this point? Mr. Whitley Stokes remarks:

I fully admit the danger of keeping open between the people of India and the manufacturers of England an irritating controversy, but it seems to have been forgotten that this controversy may be closed by the latter relinquishing their attack on the Indian fiscal system as well as by the former surrendering a portion of their scanty revenues.

So much for the irritating controversy.

His Excellency came to the climax in the following

You say in your address that the present financial condition of India is critical; that a terrible famine has recently been ravaging the country; "and yet that at this time the Government has deemed it its duty to impose additional taxation to the extent of about a million and a half." Gentlemen you have overestimated the amount of the additional taxation which the Government of India has deemed it its duty to impose. This however is not a matter of much importance but it is to me at least a matter for much surprise and regret, to find that in commenting with disapproval on the action taken by the Government of India in what you justly term "a time of national tribulation," you have entirely failed to recognise the fact that the sole purpose of the additional taxation you complain of was the preservation of the lives of the people of India from the effects of famine. Whether the particular measures adopted for that purpose were or were not judiciously devised is a question fairly open to unprejudiced discussion. But the motive and purpose of those measures are certainly not open to doubt. Whatever may be the faults or shortcomings of this Government its action in the matter to which your address makes reference was dictated by the sincerest and most anxious desire to give to the people of India the greatest protection which could practically be provided for them against the calamities of future famines. To insinuate the contrary is to insinuate a calumny.

Let us see again what His Excellency's colleagues say on this subject. Mr. Whitley Stokes remarks: "We have spent our Famine Insurance Fund, or what was intended to be such." Mr. Rivers Thompson says:

The frequent desolations from famines spreading over wide provinces in India during the last few years led the Government 12 months ago, to adopt the unusual course of attempting by special measures of taxation to provide against what appeared to be a regular recurring evil of great intensity. The poverty or the unthriftiness of the people precluded the notion that they would ever possess the resources necessary to meet the pressure of such calamitous seasons; and thus Government in the interest of the helpless masses undertaking the responsibility of maintaining life during severe times of scarcity, imposed new taxes for the creation of a reserve fund upon which to draw when famine was in the land. It was the object of the Government of India that a million and a half (sterling) should thus be provided in ordinary years as a protection against famine, and that the money should be utilized in the promotion of public works of a remunerative character, which at the same time in the event of famine, would help in its relief by the establishment of speedier and more complete communications. The Government of India with very solemn attestations devoted this money as an insurance against famine alone. Sir John Strachey then said—"We consider that the estimates of every year ought to make provision for religiously applying the sum I have mentioned to this sole purpose; and I hope that no desire to carry out any administrative improvement however urgent or any fiscal reform however wise will tempt the Government to neglect this sacred trust. Apart from this half a million was to be reserved under these taxes "as a margin such as every solvent State ought to maintain to meet unforeseen contingencies." The admissions of the Budget statement show that the arrangements for the above purposes "have for the time failed to produce the desired effect; and in view of the peculiar character of this recent taxation the appropriation of its proceeds for the ordinary current expenses of this country in the very first year of its institution affects our position seriously in more ways than one. The famine insurance fund is gone and as famine arises its cost must be met by extra taxation; but it has also the graver aspect of exciting the very injurious suspicion that the Government has been wanting in good faith.

Sir Alexander Arbuthnot is equally emphatic. He says:

It betrays, in my opinion, a disregard of the first principles of financial economy which is equally certain to lead to disaster, whether it be applied to the fortunes of an individual or to the finances of a state, and which cannot be too emphatically condemned.

His Excellency the Viceroy thus concludes:

Gentlemen, you have reminded me of a declaration made by my predecessor "that in all financial questions the true interests of the people of India is the only consideration which the Government of India has to regard." I unreservedly approve and adopt that declaration, and whatever may be the further action of the Government of India on this important question, it will certainly be taken with exclusive reference to what we conscientiously conceive to be the highest, the widest and the most permanent interest of the people of India.

On this point Mr. Rivers Thompson says:

It is not at such a time that in my judgment any portion of the cotton duties should be repealed; and I deprecate the procedure all the more because in impending circumstances at home the measure has all the appearance of the subordination of the reasonable claims of the Indian Administration to the necessities of English politics.

Sir Alexander Arbuthnot remarks:

By a tacit, but well understood, compact, India was excluded from the arena of party politics in the House of Commons. Now for the first time there is a prevalent belief that this understanding has been departed from. A measure seriously affecting the finances of India has been, and is being, pressed upon Parliament by a powerful section of the English mercantile community, and the general opinion is that that pressure has so far produced an effect, that at a juncture of the gravest financial difficulty and anxiety, the Government of India has been impelled to incur a sacrifice of revenue which the most ordinary considerations of financial prudence should have led it to retain, with the certainty that the present concession will only encourage further pressure until the whole of the parti-

cular branch of the state revenue which has been the subject of attack shall have been abandoned.

Enough! What a flood of light do these dissenting minutes throw upon the single-devotion to Indian interests of which Lord Lytton made such a pompous profession before the deputation of the British Indian Association.

#### THE INDIAN BUDGET IN PARLIAMENT.

THE Indian Budget as presented to the House of Commons by the Under-Secretary of State constitutes a signal triumph for the Indian party of Reform and Retrenchment. For years past we have been warning the Government of India and the Home Government against thoughtless increase of expenditure and waste of money. Last year our warning took a definite form in the shape of a petition to Parliament adopted at a crowded meeting at the Town Hall, convened at the instance of the British Indian Association, but Sir John Strachey then denied that there was room for reduction of expenditure, except in regard to Home Military Charges, and the Secretary of State pooh-poohed the petition when it was presented to the House of Lords by Lord Northbrook. But Nemesis has at last overtaken the Government. The Indian Minister cannot any longer deny the desperate situation of Indian Finance, and in order to save his Government from the serious assaults with which it was threatened from all sides he at once yielded the ground and cried *peccavi*. As the *Times* says, "there was every preparation for a party conflict upon Indian finances but fortunately this danger was removed by the course taken by the Government. Mr. Stanhope's speech differed widely from the ordinary explanations and apologies of Under-Secretaries. It acknowledged the extent of the evil which Mr. Fawcett deplored, and promised to carry out the policy of reduction which Mr. Fawcett advocated as a remedy. This announcement, though it secured in a certain sense a legitimate triumph for Mr. Fawcett, deprived the debate of a great part of its interest. There was evidently no fighting to come off; no critical accusations were to be proved in spite of official denials; no remedial schemes were to be urged upon a reluctant Administration. Mr. Fawcett recognized the change in the situation, and amended his proposed motion by making it a direct approval of the policy of the Government, instead of an indirect censure."

As in duty bound the Under-Secretary denied that the Indian Empire was on the verge of bankruptcy, but his own arguments and concessions tended to prove the truth of the assertion. Mr. Stanhope put the financial statement before the House with great ability and ingenuity—indeed we see in him the germs of a rising Indian statesman—but he was constrained to admit that the position of Indian Finance was far from satisfactory. Thus he said:

"While the subject of exchanges was under consideration they did not feel justified in imposing new taxation, but now that a decision had been come to an endeavour must be made to balance income and expenditure. There was an estimated deficit of £1,355,000; but if only the state of exchange had been a little more favourable, there would have been a large surplus. Provision was not made in the estimates for the million and a half for famine assurance, nor for the surplus required to meet contingencies. He concluded that the deficiency amounted to three millions and a quarter, and he was not taking any notice of the increase of debt which was proposed, having to deal now only with the revenue and expenditure of the year. Two millions was on account of the war, which was an entirely exceptional expenditure, and it was proposed not unreasonably, to borrow it from the Imperial Exchequer, and to repay it by instalments. Putting that aside as extraordinary expenditure, he arrived at the conclusion that the excess of ordinary expenditure over ordinary income was one million and a quarter. It could not be said that that was a satisfactory state of things. It was caused, undoubtedly, by a combination of adverse circumstances; but it was a state of things which, although it was not satisfactory, need not in the smallest degree alarm us, for India had surmounted equal difficulties and would surmount them again. But the House would not be satisfied with any such general assurance; and it would desire to consider how the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure could best be

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH  
INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR 1878.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee submit the following Report of their operations during the year 1878 :—

PETITIONS TO PARLIAMENT.

**TAXATION MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL.**—In consequence of the yearly increase of expenditure and taxation in this country and the consequent hardships to the people generally the Committee determined to convene a public meeting at the Town Hall for the consideration of this important subject with a view to petitioning Parliament regarding it. Accordingly on a requisition to the Sheriff a public meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta was held on the 2nd March 1878, at which leading men of all sections of the native community were present, and the gathering comprised over 1500 gentlemen. The Sheriff being voted to the chair six resolutions were duly proposed and seconded, of which the three important were as follows :—

(1). That in the deliberate opinion of this meeting the excessive poverty of the mass of the population is the chief cause of the widespread suffering, which results from periodical drought and scarcity; and that it is imperatively necessary, therefore, that the growing demand upon the Indian Exchequer for ordinary wants of the State and insurance against famine should be provided by judicious retrenchments and economical administration, without permanently adding to the burdens of the people by further heavy taxation.

(2). That it is apparent from the published statements and opinions of official and other authorities that, without any sacrifice of efficiency, great economy is practicable in Home Military charges and local army expenditure of India, and that in the opinion of this meeting the principle of joint-partnership on which the Home Military charges of this country are apportioned between it and England is opposed to law and equity.

(3). That the enormous outlay on Public Works of all kinds since 1860-61 without adequate returns and commensurate benefits in many cases, has greatly strained the financial resources of the Indian Empire; that reasonable and judicious economy in this as well as other branches of public expenditure is in the opinion of this meeting, calculated to bring about the desired equilibrium between income and expenditure.

Petitions to both Houses of Parliament were adopted and a Committee was formed to circulate the same for signature, and to make necessary arrangements for presenting them to the two Houses.

**PETITION TO THE LORDS AND COMMONS.**—In the petitions to Parliament it was urged that the famine expenditure had necessitated additional taxation to the tune of a million and a half, and that the new burdens imposed would press severely upon the poorer classes, who constituted the mass of the population, and that if those burdens were made permanent, as they have been made by the new fiscal measures the tax-payers would have a good reason for complaint, when no attempt had been made to afford them relief by reduction of expenditure for which there was legitimate and ample room. That in spite of the thrifty and frugal habits of the people, and their patience under suffering, the poor classes fall an easy prey to a natural visitation like the drought and the famine; this fact shews that their means are very limited and that the multiplication of public burdens upon them must diminish the little room they have for the practice of frugality. That the people of British India having no voice in the application of the national revenues cannot but regret that notwithstanding the high and honorable motives which guide the Government in the expenditure of public money the expenditure has outstripped the income so much so that it has increased by about one-third of what it was twenty years ago, and that this excess expenditure, since 1860, has accordingly led to heavy and frequent additional taxation in various forms. That while the Imperial Government of England is ever ready to take off taxes by keeping down imperial expenditure, the Government of this country in devising the ways and means for necessary improvement has not been adequately zealous in practising economy where it is practicable. But in this respect the hands of the Government of India are tied by Her Majesty's Government. The petition then dwelt upon the military charges, the public works expenditure, and the expenditure on the general administration, and suggested certain retrenchments, particularly the adjustment of Home Military Charges on a fair and equitable basis. The Committee appended a memorandum to the petition shewing details of increase in Home Military charges, the measures taken for revision of the same from time to time and the results obtained.

**APPEAL TO M.P.s.**—The Committee, appointed by the public meeting for making arrangements for presenting the petitions to both Houses of Parliament, addressed an appeal to the leading members of the House of Commons, who took interest in the affairs of India, soliciting them to lend their support to the petitions. In their letter they stated that both Indian expenditure and taxation had steadily increased since the transfer of the Government of India from the East India Company to the Crown, that the people of India were so poor that one year's drought and scarcity were enough to reduce them to starvation,

and that they could not bear the present heavy taxation without being pauperized to a frightful extent. Their only hope of relief from the existing heavy burdens lay in the reduction of expenditure. The Government of India has repeatedly acknowledged the necessity of economy, but there are certain items of expenditure such as the Home Military charges, in the adjustment of which it has obviously no voice. The then Secretary of State for India in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Indian Finance, said that in this matter he stands in need of the support of Parliament. In soliciting support of the petition the Committee expressed a hope and belief that on an examination of the facts, figures, statements, and arguments contained in the petition, the reasonableness and justice of the prayer of the petitioners will be admitted.

**PRESENTATION OF THE PETITIONS TO PARLIAMENT.**—The petition to the House of Commons was presented by Mr. Fawcett and that to the House of Lords by the Right Honourable the Earl of Northbrook. On presenting the petition to the Lords on the 5th August 1878, his Lordship introduced it by observing that "the petition was signed by 2,000 persons, and from his personal knowledge he could state that among the petitioners were some native gentlemen who occupied the highest position in the province of Bengal. In proof of the loyalty of the petitioners and the good sense which characterised them, Lord Northbrook quoted the letter from the Secretary to the Petition Committee, and remarked that "the fact that they did not wish the petition to be presented at a time when the state of affairs on the continent of Europe was in so uncertain a condition shewed a very loyal feeling on their part, which would doubtless be appreciated by their Lordships." His Lordship reviewed the contents of the petition in an elaborate and exhaustive speech.

Lord Northbrook first dwelt on the prayer for a re-adjustment of the principles on which the Home military expenditure of India should be regulated. "The feeling expressed by the petitioners," said Lord Northbrook, "was undoubtedly genuine and sincere; this was shown by the speech of Sir Ashley Eden, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in the Legislative Council of India, in December last when the new taxes were proposed. Sir Ashley Eden said that while the natives of Bengal were prepared to bear loyally the additional taxation necessary to provide for the famine expenditure, it was his duty to inform the Government that strong feeling was entertained by them that the Military expenditure was susceptible of reduction, and that it should be reduced."

On the subject of Public Works in India, which was another point touched upon in the petition, Lord Northbrook remarked, speaking of irrigation works, that, "it was remarkable that whenever the opinion of intelligent, educated and thoughtful natives of India were expressed, they were altogether at variance with the views advocated by Mr. Bright at certain public Meetings last year, that the best thing for India would be that some thirty millions should be laid out at once upon irrigation." His Lordship agreed with the petitioners that public works were too dearly purchased if they involved the imposition of increased burdens upon the people. Referring to the opinion expressed by the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Clarke, the Minister of Public Works, that there was a great redundancy in the staff of engineers in India and that the foundation of the Cooper's Hill College had the effect of sending to India an excessive supply of young civil engineers at an unnecessary expense to the Indian revenues, his Lordship said, "he trusted that, considering the high authority of Sir Andrew Clarke, the Secretary of State would lay upon the table any communication that might have been received from India upon the subject." In concluding his remarks on this point Lord Northbrook deprecated any guarantee being given to the Euphrates Valley Railway by the Government of India.

Regarding the establishment of local Councils for deliberation in financial matters, Lord Northbrook strongly supported the petitioners, observing that "he knew it was the opinion of many high authorities, and among them of his friend Sir William Muir that now that the responsibilities of the Lieutenant-Governors of Provinces had much increased especially in regard to the disposal of the Provincial revenues, it was very desirable to establish some kind of Council to assist them in their duties, and moreover to supply an element of stability to the policy of those Provinces, which was under the present system, almost entirely under the control of the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being." His Lordship went further and advocated the establishment of Councils, which might strengthen the Provincial Governments, and he thought that if this were done it would be desirable to appoint to such Councils natives of India of high character, such, for example, as have filled the seats in the different Legislative Councils.

Adverting to the prayer for reduction of expenditure Lord Northbrook observed that though he did not agree with the petitioners as to the practicability of extensive retrenchments, he thought that there was one aspect of the question which appeared to him to afford a more favourable prospect of the remission of taxation, than reduction of expenditure. It appeared to him that some at least of the new taxes were not necessary, and ought not to have been imposed.

In presenting the petition to the House of Commons

Mr. Fawcett advocated reduction of expenditure and objected to increase of taxation.

**THANKS TO LORD NORTHBROOK.**—The Committee at their meeting held on the 11th September 1878 passed the following Resolution :—

"The Committee of the British Indian Association desire to offer their best thanks to the Right Hon'ble the Earl of Northbrook for kindly presenting to the House of Lords the petition of the inhabitants of Calcutta and its vicinity adopted at a public meeting in March last, which this Association was instrumental in promoting. His Lordship was pleased to support the petition generally and to point out forcibly the absence of any necessity in the present condition of the Indian finances for heavy famine taxation. The Committee feel greatly indebted to His Lordship for his lucid, able and authoritative exposition of views on the subject of Indian taxation and endorse every word His Lordship uttered as to the impolicy of reducing the salt tax and imposing heavy direct taxes. The Committee will take an early opportunity to urge his Lordship's views upon the Government of India for practical action."

The Committee also thanked Mr. Fawcett.

**MINUTE OF THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER ON HOME MILITARY CHARGES.**—The Committee are glad to report that the question of adjustment of the Home Military charges engaged the attention of Her Majesty's Government last year. Sir Stafford Northcote the Chancellor of the Exchequer, wrote a minute on the subject dated 2nd July 1878, in which he admits the existence of an impression "that the Imperial Government demands too much from India." He does not assent to the charge, and quotes approvingly a report of the Common's Committee appointed in 1874, the gist of which is to shew that a very general desire prevails among the different English Departments not to throw any charge upon India improperly. After some correspondence between the India Office, the War Office and the Exchequer it was at last settled at the instance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that a Commission should be appointed jointly by the India Office, War Office and Treasury upon the basis contemplated by the Financial Secretary of the Treasury in his memorandum of December 1877, to fix the capitation rate to be paid for each British soldier serving in India, and that the rate so fixed should be in force for a certain number of years and then be subject to revision. To this proposal both the War Office and the India Office have assented.

**COST OF THE AFGHAN WAR.**—In the early part of last December the wire communicated to India the decision of the Home Government that she should defray the expenses of the Afghan war. When announcing this resolution in Parliament to obtain its sanction, the Indian Secretary observed that in view of circumstances connected with the war and the condition of the Indian finances, he considered that there were no grounds for asking assistance from England. This decision of Her Majesty's Government was received in this country with surprise and regret. To give expression to the popular feeling on the subject the Committee resolved to petition Parliament regarding it. Not to lose time the Committee forwarded the following telegram to the Afghan War Committee in London, to Lord Northbrook and Mr. Gladstone :—

"British Indian Association to Afghan War Committee. People distressed that cost of war will be thrown upon India. Appeal for justice. Petition hereafter." The petition referred to was despatched lately and will be noticed in the next year's report.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES.

The Committee petitioned the Governor General's Legislative Council regarding the following measures :

**STAMP BILL.—First Petition.** It was proposed by this Bill, to amend the then existing Stamp and Court Fees' Acts and consolidate them into one law. The object of this Bill was partly amendment of the law and partly increased revenue. The Committee in their petition remarked that as an indirect source of revenue the Stamp-duty was certainly unobjectionable so long as it was not allowed to assume the form of a tax on justice or to press unduly upon the people in their daily transactions of life. As to the provisions of the Bill the Committee objected to the proposal of levying increased stamp duty on application for foreclosure, which they suggested should be made to correspond with the existing law on the subject. They also took exception to the increase of the duty in suits for the enhancement of rent. If the suit be dismissed, the landlord will suffer, if it be decreed, the ryot will suffer. The Committee further suggested a relaxation of the rule requiring the full value of stamp for an instrument to be paid by a single stamp. They suggested that where stamps of full value are not available from the local stamp-vendor, the party requiring the same should be allowed to make up the aggregate value by several pieces of stamps in order to avoid the trouble, annoyance and expense incidental to an application to the collector.

**Second Petition.** In the amended Bill many of the objectionable provisions referred to in the first petition were either modified or eliminated, and the Bill was made a general Stamp Bill, the Court Fees' Act to be dealt with separately. There were still some pro-

visions in the amended Bill which called for criticism. The Committee in their second petition referred to these provisions and submitted remarks and suggestions regarding them. The points touched upon by the Committee were the sections providing fees for general Powers of Attorney, punishment of persons not paying the prescribed stamp duties, appeals in doubtful cases of stamp fee payable, duty prescribed for an agreement to lease, and sale-certificates, and for enrolment of advocates for Vakeels, and the scale of duties leviable for bonds, conveyances, partition deeds &c.

**MASTER AND SERVANT BILL.** *Second Petition.* The Committee were again called upon by Government to express their opinion on the amended Bill. In responding to this call the Committee expressed their thanks to the Hon'ble mover of the Bill for excluding from its operation the domestic and agricultural servants of Hindus, Mahomedans and Buddhists. Referring to the opinion of the Parsi community, the Committee at the request of some representatives of that community in this city observed that the Parsis also wished to be exempted from the operation of the Bill.

Referring to the general scope of the Bill in its amended form the Committee remarked that it was ill adapted to the circumstances of the country. As the rights of the master and the duties of the servant have been defined, the former would suffer at the hands of a hard-task-master and the latter would not be able to enforce all his rights. Though the domestic and agricultural servants of Hindus, Mahomedans and Buddhists, will be excluded from the operation of the proposed law, there are other classes of servants such as Gomastas, Mohurirs and like persons, who will be subject to it and with reference to the tenure of their service, the Bill says, its rules will apply in the absence of custom or usage to the contrary. The object of including servants of the class referred to in the scope of the Bill was not clear. The Committee were persuaded, they remarked, that the present Bill though divested of many of the former objectionable provisions, were calculated to produce much litigation and to drive a large number of unsophisticated, ignorant men of the lower orders to courts of law, to which they were not hitherto in the habit of resorting. They recommended that the amended Bill be withdrawn.

**THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS' BILL.**—The Committee last year submitted a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council embodying their criticisms on this Bill. The Bill has since undergone much revision and has been published in an amended form. In the amended Bill the sections (26 and 40) to which exception was taken by the Committee have been so modified and altered as to obviate the objections taken. The Bill has received several more alterations and additions, which give it a new aspect altogether. It has not yet been passed into law.

**ARMS BILL.**—This Bill sought to amend the existing law on the subject. In the amended Bill there were some provisions, which trench on the rights and privileges of the subject people, and also threatened to interfere with the precautions, which individuals might deem necessary to adopt for the security of their lives and properties. The Committee in their memorial set forth the objectionable provisions of the Bill and the grounds of their objections. In the first place it was necessary, the Committee urged, that the description of arms referred to in the Bill should be specified as the general term "arms" might include necessary instruments for household purpose as a knife, a stick, and a *dao*, and if the possession and use of such arms were clogged by penal clauses the inconvenience and hardships to the people might be well imagined. Regarding the imposition of high rates of duties on arms and ammunitions, and the enactment of rigorous restrictions and penal provisions, the Committee observed that if the object of those provisions was to check the importation of cheap arms, such restrictions and prohibitive duties were not necessary as from the customs-house returns it did not appear that the importation had increased; the bulk of these importations consisting of arms and ammunitions were for the use of Europeans for sporting purposes, and there was nothing to show that any considerable portion of them had gone to border-tribes or disaffected classes. Stringent provisions were made to restrain the possession of arms, and licenses were proposed to be clogged with terms and conditions calculated to neutralise them. Absolute power was to be given to the executive to revoke and cancel licenses from which there was no appeal, and over and above these provisions authority was given to any person to arrest another person without a warrant, if such another person is found carrying and conveying arms and ammunition &c, whether covered by a license or not in such a manner or under such circumstances as to afford just ground of suspicion, that the same are carried with intent to use them for any unlawful purposes, dangerous to the public peace. With reference to these provisions, the Committee observed, that in the hands of over-zealous officers and the Police they might be converted into a fearful engine of annoyance and oppression. Arms were necessary for the protection of both life and property, and to restrain the use of arms in the way proposed would be to place people at the mercy of wild beasts and robbers. The Committee in conclusion prayed that the duties prescribed by the Bill may be fixed on a moderate scale, that the

proposed restrictions for the transport, possession and use of arms be withdrawn, and that a special law for the complete disarmament of suspected tribes or classes be substituted instead.

**VERNACULAR PRESS BILL.**—The Committee took occasion of the Press Act Amendment Bill to discuss the necessity and expediency of a law for the control of oriental publications including the vernacular newspapers. The Committee in their memorial stated that the declaration from the Head of the Government that it was the supreme reason, the safety of the empire, which had led the Government to pass a measure of such retrogressive nature in hot haste, had induced them to bow in respectful and loyal silence to the decision of Government. But the discussions which had followed the enactment in this country, in the India Office, in the public press of the United Kingdom, and in the Imperial Parliament, had laid the subject before the public in all its bearings, and shown in the humble judgment of the Committee how inconsistent was the new press law with the traditions and progressive policy of the British Government in India. The Committee further remarked that the institution of a free press in this country was the more valuable, because the governing body, being alien by birth, ideas, customs, and religion, had not the same facilities for gauging the under-currents of popular opinion that existed in a self-contained and self-governed community. They are quite conscious that the Vernacular press has shortcomings, that it is susceptible of great improvement. They had carefully perused the extracts on which the new measure was to a great extent founded, but having regard to all that had been or might be urged against the Vernacular press they could not persuade themselves to think that it was an engine of sedition and disloyalty, and is therefore a public danger. But they urged that should any member of the vernacular press be so misguided as to incite by his writings disobedience to the lawful authority of the Government or disaffection to it, the ordinary law of the land was strong enough to punish him. As for offences which the Vernacular Press Act contemplated to prevent such as exciting disaffection to the State, intimidating persons with a view to extortion, coercing public servants and fostering race antipathies, they were already punishable under the Penal Code. The supreme necessity, the safety of the State, could not with any show of reason be urged for altering the law or justify the withdrawal of the ordinary jurisdiction of the courts of justice. If private individuals and public officers suffering from the abuse of the liberty of the press neglected to avail themselves of the benefit of the law, it was their own fault. They pointed out that no proof was adduced that the current oriental literature had been charged with the same mischievous tendencies that had been alleged against some of the vernacular newspapers, and therefore to bring it within the restrictive clauses of the Act would be putting a galling restraint upon authors and publishers, which could not but prove highly detrimental to the interests of the oriental literature. Should State policy require the retention of the law, the Committee urged the propriety of the trial of offenders in a Court of Justice. In conclusion they prayed for the repeal of the Act for the control of oriental publications stating that, if considerations of State policy should make such repeal inexpedient, the Governor General in Council might be pleased to modify it by restricting its scope only to the offence of sedition, to omit the restrictive clause relating to oriental literature, and to provide for a fair judicial trial for all offences under the Act.

**ALLUVION BILL.**—The object of this Bill, which has not yet passed into law, is to obviate the existing doubts and uncertainties, relative to the rights of the crown and proprietors of estates to land formed by alluvial deposits. The principle laid down in the case of *Lopez vs. Mudden Thakur* by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council forms the basis of the proposed law. In the decision above referred to, some disputed points were settled by declaring that when land forms on a site of which a private person is proved to be the owner, such person is entitled to the lands so formed. A channel is declared fordable which does not exceed five feet in depth in the dry season and throughout the 24 hours, in the case of channels becoming fordable which were not so on the first formation of an island the Bill declares that the question of fordability or non-fordability is to be determined from the date of first appearance of the island. An island is defined to be a formation of land in a river, which is submerged in the wet season, and becomes visible in the dry season excluding lands in tidal rivers or the sea which are submerged by the flow of ordinary tides. But only two or three points required notice, and the representation of the Committee embraced these points. The first referred to the insufficiency of the definition of the conditions under which an island shall vest in the crown. To say that islands formed in channels which are not fordable at any point leaves out of consideration channels subject to ebb and flow of tides. To obviate all disputes and uncertainties the Committee suggested that the question of fordability be decided after a newly formed island becomes valuable and usable. The next point which the Committee requested attention was the power proposed to be given to the local Go-

vernments to declare "main stream," "dry season," and "thread of the stream." Instead of leaving the local Governments to declare what are "main stream" "thread of the stream," and "dry season," clear definitions in the law itself would remove the source of all misunderstanding and dispute.

Referring to the last section of the Bill which declares that all lands and islands not vested under the provisions enacted shall vest in the Crown, the Committee submitted that when all descriptions of alluvial lands have been noticed in the Bill, this special declaration might give rise to much misunderstanding, and seemed to be redundant.

The Bill has since been revised by the Select Committee, who have adopted some of the suggestions of the Association. The Select Committee have recommended that its further consideration should be stayed until the new Law Commission has reported thereon.

#### PETITIONS TO THE BENGAL COUNCIL.

**THE LICENSE TAX BILL.**—This measure was introduced into the Bengal Council under orders of the Government of India. In their representation to the Council the Committee submitted that while they recognized the necessity of additional revenue in the present financial exigencies of the State, and appreciated the motives of Government to provide means for defraying the public expenditure from time to time, incurred and to be incurred for the relief and prevention of famine in British India, it was their deliberate conviction that the amount required might be covered by the enforcement of strict and judicious economy. They took leave to remind the Lieutenant Governor what His Honor had said in passing the Public Works Cess Bill that he might hereafter remit a portion of the cess on land by levying a license upon trades, but if the present Bill becomes a permanent measure, that hope could not be realized. Besides as the famine tax had been imposed upon Bengal last year in the shape of a Public Works Cess it would not be equitable to lay this additional burden upon her. As regards the details of the Bill the Committee commented on some of the defective and objectionable provisions contained in it. There was a provision for the renewal of the license every year, but none for the refund of the tax for broken periods when a person might withdraw from a trade during a year. Again, a person liable to the tax is enjoined to take out a license within thirty days of the 1st of April of each year, but no time is fixed within which a prosecution for not taking out a license will lie. Referring to the absence of any provision as to whether a petition of objections should be written on stamped or plain paper, the committee remarked that such an omission would entail a stamp fee of eight annas upon every petition under the new Stamp Bill, and as this tax would affect the very poor, the petition of objection, they suggested, ought to be allowed to be written on plain paper. Reference was next made to the hardship of making the assessing officer's decision final, to the necessity of a clear provision that the assessee's net earnings only shall be liable to taxation. The Committee further pointed out that to make an assessment liable to enhancement on the assessee's filing unsatisfactory objections would have the effect of deterring aggrieved persons from seeking justice by having recourse to the remedy afforded by law. To provide for the sale of landed property for the realization of the license tax would be extremely hard. The Committee observed with reference to the provision that the Municipalities, which will be entrusted with the collection of the tax shall contract with Government for the payment of a lump sum on account of the tax whether realized or not, will lead to injustice and oppression. As regards provisions referring to Calcutta the Committee dwelt on the necessity of allowing an appeal from the decisions of the Chairman to a Bench of Commissioners. Respecting the provision that the revenue derived under this Bill shall be applicable at the discretion of the Governor General in Council for the purpose of defraying expenditure incurred or to be incurred for the relief and prevention of famine in the territories administered by a local Government or in any other part of India, the Committee submitted that it would be opposed to the principle of the new system of Provincial Finance, which was that the proceeds of local taxation should be applied to local purposes. Objection was taken to the provision giving power to the local Government to frame rules under the Act with special reference to the subject defining more precisely the class of persons liable under this Act. This, the Committee observed, is fairly a subject for legislative enactment and not executive action. With regard to the schedule, the Committee pointed out that the jumps, from one class to another were too wide, and that it was desirable that the classification should be made as closely as possible to avoid inequality of incidence. The maximum of assessment fixed at Rs. 200 was in the humble opinion of the Committee too low, as the result of such a limit will be that the higher the income the less will be the burden of assessment. A higher maximum say Rs 3000, or Rs. 2,000 would be nearer justice, particularly in comparison to the poorer classes, who will be subject to the tax. As to exemptions, the Committee suggested that instead of leaving the exemption to the discretion of the Collector, it would be better to fix the limit of exemption by law, and to exempt all persons with annual

earnings of less than Rs. 100. As a compensation for the loss of revenue arising from the limited area of assessment they submitted that the scope of the Bill might be extended to those persons in the mofussil, who were in the professions as usually understood.

#### AMENDMENT OF THE RENT LAW.

**TRANSFERABILITY OF OCCUPANCY RIGHTS.**—In the reply of the Committee to a requisition from the Government of Bengal, inviting an expression of their opinion on the measures to be adopted for the speedy recovery of rents in uncontested cases, referred to in their last report, they took exception to the proposal for making the occupancy tenure generally transferable. The Government of Bengal in the Revenue Department requested a further expression of the views of the Association with reference to the question raised in the Committee's reply above referred to. The Committee after a careful consideration of the question observed that, the occupancy right was created by Act X (Section 6) of 1859 and that that provision of the law being opposed to the rights of zemindars in the permanently settled districts was objectionable. The custom under which under-tenures were transferable by sale in execution of a decree for arrears of rent, was what existed before the year 1859, and did not apply to the occupancy tenure of the present day. If the transfer of the occupancy tenure obtained in some districts, it was either through the connivance of the amla of the zemindars or the neglect of the zemindars themselves, and their acts could not be held to be binding upon others; even under the law which created the occupancy right it was heritable only, but not transferable. The uncertainty existing on the subject owing to conflicting decisions of the courts and the haziness surrounding the "custom" relied upon was a source of insecurity for both the landlord and tenant, and it would be consistent with the original intentions of the legislature and just to both parties to restrict the transfer of the occupancy tenure to the cultivating class. From the landlord's point of view the transfer was open to objection, as it would deprive him of his inherent right of choosing his own tenant. But there were considerations, which rendered the transfer of the right desirable. Providential visitations, hopeless poverty, or prospect of improvement elsewhere may lead the ryot to think of relinquishing his holding, and if he has not the power of transfer, he loses the value which his tenure undoubtedly possesses. The right of transfer will, moreover, obviate the disadvantage incidental to the Hindoo law of inheritance by allowing small tracts which would otherwise be useless in the hands of individual holders, to be bought up by well-to-do proprietors and farmed into compact blocks. The only precaution necessary to guard against the provision proving injurious either to the landlord or the tenant, would be to restrict the transfer to the cultivating class only and to clear up all doubts regarding the power of the occupancy ryot to sublet tenure. Then it should be clearly defined as to who should be considered actual cultivators so as to prevent the possibility of any uncertainty existing on the subject.

The above were the views of the majority of the Committee, but the minority, not subscribing to those views, held that the legalisation of the transfer of the occupancy tenure would pauperize the ryots, many of whom would be reduced to mere day-labourers. Then it would be practically extremely difficult to restrict the transfer to the cultivating class. A cultivator to-day might be a capitalist to-morrow, and to deprive him of his holding, because he did not cultivate it with his own hands, would be to oppose the natural law of progress. The minority were satisfied that whatever safeguards might be devised, it would be difficult if not impossible to prevent lands from passing into the hands of middlemen, who will have recourse to various shifts and expedients to defeat the restrictions proposed in the law. Planters and others as a body will not be slow to avail themselves of the provision to reduce the ryots to the condition of serfs.

**THE RENT BILL.**—Since the submission to Government of the Committee's views on the measures to be adopted for the more speedy recovery of the arrears of uncontested rents, the Government of Bengal addressed another communication to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, regarding the exception taken by the Supreme Government to the proposal of including in the Rent Bill, a provision for the transfer of occupancy rights and interests. A copy of this letter with a copy of the draft Rent Bill was forwarded to this Association with reference to their letter of 22nd October 1877, in which the measures for the speedy recovery of arrears of uncontested rents referred to above had been discussed. The Committee in their reply confined their remarks only to such provisions of the Bill as were susceptible of modification. Instead of allowing discretion to the local Government, as the Bill proposed, to extend the proposed Act to such districts as it may think fit, the Committee suggested that its benefits should be extended to all districts alike. They also pointed out that it would be unfair to interfere with the stipulations of ryots regarding instalments of rents and interest on the same. The period of limitation for the institution of rent-suits, they suggested, should be extended from 12 months to three years, as in Act X of 1859, and the Landlord and Tenant

Act of 1869. They also suggested that the Court should not have power to set aside a suit at its discretion. They then dwelt on the injustice of the provision to deny the right of appeal to the plaintiff when it is conceded to the defendant. To ascertain correctly the current rent, a reference, they observed, to three years' collection is necessary instead of to the rent of the preceding year. Though the proposed law would not apply to enhancement suits, advantage might be taken of the proposed law, the Committee suggested, to provide that the Courts should have the power to decree the immediate payment of the current demand irrespective of the issue of the claim for the enhancement of rent. Referring to the question of the transfer of occupancy tenures the Committee observed that they would have no objection to the measure if the transfer could be confined to the cultivating class only. They further dwelt on the necessity of framing definite rules for the registration of occupancy tenures, when there was a mutation of names by succession, sale or gift. It was, moreover pointed out that when the ejectment of a tenant was made contingent upon a decree of court, the proviso that no tenant having a right of occupancy or holding under a lease the currency of which had not expired, shall be ejected except in execution of decree or order of Court, was superfluous. This provision would have the effect of creating a belief that the order for ejectment was left to the discretion of the Courts. To guard against the vexatious plea of non-service of summons on the part of defendant ryots, the Committee suggested stringent measures to ensure service of summons.

#### SETTLEMENT OF RENT IN PRIVATE ESTATES.

**First Letter.**—Referring to the Bill to define and limit the powers of settlement officers with respect to enhancement of rent in Government estates, which had been passed by the Bengal Council, the Committee submitted a letter to the Government of Bengal, observing that the uncertainty of the law relating to enhancement of rent and the grave difficulties surrounding it made it desirable to have recourse to some expedient for the purpose of clearing the uncertainty and removing the difficulties. They suggested that the law recently enacted for the settlement of rent in Government estates may be made applicable to private estates. That measure would have the beneficial effect of reducing litigation arising from enhancement suits, while by its being made tentative and optional, it could not be injurious to any party. Both landlords and tenants would have the liberty to have recourse to the Civil Courts for the settlement of their disputes without resorting to the settlement officer if they wished; but if they did resort to him nothing would prevent either party from contesting his decision in the Civil Court if they were dissatisfied with it.

The Government in reply expressed its concurrence in the proposal of the Association, and intimated that the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal has been requested to take charge of a Bill on the subject.

**Second Letter.**—A copy of the revised Bill for the settlement of lands on the application of landholders and ryots having been forwarded to this Association for the expression of their opinion on its provisions, the Committee submitted their remarks to the following effect:

If the conditions under which summary settlement were to be applied for were fulfilled, the proceedings ought to issue as a matter of course, without the local Government having the option of ordering the same or not. The Committee objected to the provision for the issue of a general notice by the Collector to the ryots inviting their opinion on the application of the landlord for summary settlement, as such notice would have the effect of stimulating opposition where no such opposition would perhaps have been offered but for this notice. Whatever objections the ryots might have to a settlement, they would have the amplest opportunity to state them when proceedings would be actually taken. The Deputy Collector entrusted with the settlement work should be vested with the power of adjudicating all questions relating to liability or otherwise of the land to settlement. With reference to the provision limiting the duration of settlement to ten years, during which no enhancement or abatement of rent shall be allowed, except in case of alluvion and deluvion, the Committee took the liberty to question the justice of this limitation. There might be many reasons for a landholder not applying for enhancement or for ryots for abatement of rent. The rules prescribed for the determination of the rate of rent left too much discretion to the revenue officer. With regard to the apportionment of the costs of settlement, the Committee deprecated the proposal leaving it to the discretion of settlement officers. They suggested that the apportionment should be made according to the results of settlement proceedings with due regard to the number and value of cases disposed of in favor of one party or another. Referring to the provision empowering Civil Courts to pass any order, specifying distinctly the rents to be payable for the lands under settlement the Committee were of opinion that the courts should have jurisdiction only in cases which might be brought by suit. The Committee in conclusion observed that the amended Bill materially differed from the original Bill, and that if the modifications they had taken the liberty to suggest were not made, the proposed law would not only offer no appreciable facility to the

settlement of rent, but would deprive the landholders of many of the rights and privileges which they now enjoy.

#### FINANCE AND TAXATION.

**FAMINE INSURANCE FUND.**—At the meeting of the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India assembled on the 27th December 1877, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister laid before the Council his scheme of raising a fund which shall be exclusively devoted to the purpose of preventing and relieving famine. The Financial Member observed:—

"To enable the state to meet the serious obligation of preventing and relieving famine, it was necessary to secure, in prosperous times, a substantial surplus of Revenue over expenditure in addition to that necessary margin which a prudent administration demands for the ordinary requirements of the State. One would thus be made for meeting occasional expenditure upon famine. He argued that, if this surplus were devoted to the reduction of debt or to preventing the increase of debt for the construction of reproductive public works in years of ordinary prosperity, there would be no objection to the Public Expenditure exceeding the Public Revenue, in occasional years of adversity, so that we might then without objection meet the charges on account of famine from borrowed funds, to the full extent to which our surplus had permitted the discharge of debt or prevented its increase."

The policy of providing a sufficient surplus in each year's budget in order to meet future calamities like the famine having been concurred in by the Home Government, the time had come, the Finance Minister held for devising measures for making a substantial improvement of the financial position, whether by retrenchment of expenditure, or development of the existing sources of revenue, or fresh taxation, or a combination of all these means. After giving an estimate of the cost of the previous famines from 1873 to 1878, and making allowance for the circumstances and conditions which might be calculated upon in reducing the famine expenditure of future years, he estimated the average yearly cost of future famines at £1,500,000 and the measures he proposed for raising this additional revenue were the scheme for the better collection of the salt revenue and equalization of its incidence, the levy of additional rates from land in the North Western Provinces and the Punjab and Oudh, and other provinces of the empire, a tax on trades and industries in Lower Bengal, as well as in the other provinces except the North Western Provinces in which the License tax had been introduced in 1877. The total amount required for the purpose of placing the finances of India on a sound footing was £2,000,000, £1,500,000 for the Famine Fund, and £500,000 as a margin to meet ordinary contingencies. The Committee in a petition to the Governor General in Council urged that if a Famine Insurance Fund, was necessary it ought to be made a statutory fund, which should not be made applicable to any other purpose. The Government, however, declined to make such a statutory declaration, but practically offered a moral pledge.

**SALT DUTY.**—The Government of India having published its intentions regarding the scheme of equalizing the salt duty, which involved a reduction of duty in some provinces and increase in others, the Committee submitted their views on the subject which may be summarized as below:—The proposal to base salt taxation on a uniform principle is at variance with the general condition of the people and with the general policy of Government; the people at large were quite content with the erewhile prevailing system of salt taxation, and never complained against the inequality of its incidence; it is the only tax which yields a maximum of revenue with a minimum of injustice and oppression. The measure of equalization involves an increase of salt duty in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies by about 40 per cent. and this addition would cause a serious hardship to the people of those Presidencies, after the disasters of the famine from which they had just emerged. The necessity for the imposition of the license tax would have been obviated if this fiscal reform had not been mixed up with the policy of famine taxation. The loss of revenue owing to the reduction of the duty, the Committee submitted, would come to about 60 lacs of rupees per annum, which the State could ill-afford to sacrifice at the present juncture. For these and other reasons, and in consideration of the arguments advanced by Lord Northbrook against the reduction of salt duty, the Committee expressed a hope that His Excellency the Viceroy in Council will be induced to reconsider the subject of Salt taxation.

In reply to the above memorial the Committee were informed by the Government of India that it will receive due consideration.

#### THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

**THE FAMINE COMMISSION.**—A Famine Commission was constituted under the orders of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India, by Resolution dated the 16th May last. The Committee observing that amongst the members appointed to the Commission there was not one person, who could fairly be expected to represent the interests of the Lower Provinces of the Bengal Presidency, submitted a representation to the Government urging that, from

the general scope of the instructions of the Government of India it appeared that the enquiry of the Commission would embrace the whole empire, and that the remedial measures which they may think fit to suggest should be such as to meet the different requirements of the different provinces in times of famine. When such was the case, the Bengal Provinces being an important division of the empire, deserved a place in the Commission, when all other divisions were represented in that body. They, therefore, ventured to suggest that some gentlemen well acquainted with the condition, soil, climate, physical aspects, tenures, and social frame-work of Bengal should be included in the commission, in order to bring their special knowledge to bear upon the deliberations of that body. In that view they solicited that His Excellency the Viceroy in Council may be pleased to consider the propriety of appointing to the Commission a competent and experienced person connected with Bengal. The Government in reply said that, as the members of the Commission were already sufficiently numerous, His Excellency in Council was not prepared to add to their number, but that the Commission would be instructed to consult the Association.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE FAMINE COMMISSION.**—A copy of the Committee's letter above alluded to having been forwarded by the Home Department of the Government of India to the Famine Commission, in view to their giving full consideration to any representations or suggestions from this Association, the Committee received from the Commission a copy of their circular drawn up in view to obtain information on all such subjects as will enable them to form an opinion on the matters before their consideration. They also expressed a desire in all respects, to avail themselves of the local knowledge and experience of the Association. The circular referred to invited information on the following subjects of enquiry: (1.) Condition of the country and people; (2.) Relief during earliest stages of distress; (3.) Famine Relief; (4.) Miscellaneous information relating to the proportion of the persons seeking relief to the whole population of a district. These questions engaged the attention of the Committee at the date of this report.

#### RAILWAYS.

**THE RAILWAY BILL.**—A copy of the new Railway Bill as amended by the select Committee having been forwarded to this Association for remarks from the Railway Branch of the Public Works Department of the Government of Bengal, the Committee stated in reply that after the suggestions offered in their letter of 24th November 1876, on the original bill, which they were glad to see embodied in the amended bill, they had not much to add. With reference to the section providing for a return of accidents, they objected to any discretion being given to a local Government to direct any Railway administration to make up and deliver to it a return of accidents. They would demur to the returns being confined to serious accidents, of which the Railway Administration would be the judge. It was a defect in the provision in not providing for their submission immediately after the accidents to which the returns might relate. Again, from the wording of the section it would seem that it was not obligatory upon the local Government to publish the return for general information. It was open to serious objection to leave the power of framing rules for working a railway to the Railway Administration when they carried penalties. To guard against mis-understanding it would be better, they said, to print the number of the train on the tickets issued to persons travelling in that train, and the disappointed passengers who had purchased tickets for any particular train should have the option of either obtaining a refund of the value of their tickets or of travelling by the next subsequent train. Penalties ought to be prescribed for railway officers, who allows a carriage to be crowded with more passengers than the legal number. Instead of prescribing penalties for passengers entering a carriage containing the maximum number, it would be more just and convenient to lock up every carriage or compartment of a carriage as soon as it has received the full number of passengers. The Committee concluded with suggesting special carriages for Zenana ladies.

The Bill has since passed into law and most of the recommendations of the Committee have been complied with.

**RAILWAY CONFERENCE.**—The Committee received a circular from Government calling their attention to the Conference to be held regarding Railway matters. Certain questions were given in the circular for consideration. As the subjects which the Committee wished to bring under the notice of the Conference had been already discussed in their representation to Government regarding the Railway Bill, they forwarded a copy of it for the information of the Conference.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**PRICES OF FOOD GRAIN.**—The Committee brought to the notice of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal the desirableness of publishing in a collected form the prices current of food grains and other agricultural produce in the different districts of Bengal from year to year as far back as they may be available. Such a publication, they observed, would be a valuable aid towards the elucidation of many important economic problems in Bengal. The Government in reply intimated that a compilation of the prices of food-grains

since the year 1874 has been undertaken, and a copy of it will be furnished to the Association on completion of the work. The Committee on receipt of this reply observed that in order to make the returns useful they should be made comprehensive, and with this view they took leave to suggest that the compilation may embrace prices as far back as they may be available. The Government was pleased to accede to this view and intimated that the proposed compilation will comprise returns from the beginning of the year 1866, the earliest year for which returns of prices current were available.

**RULES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ARMS ACT.**—On the publication of the rules for the enforcement of the Arms Act, the Committee submitted to the Government of Bengal a representation setting forth the inconvenience and hardship that will result from the enforcement of the rules in Bengal and requested consideration as to whether the circumstances of Bengal would not justify its exemption from the operation of the law, and whether the object of Government would not be attained by restricting it to the frontier districts, so as to prevent the transport of arms to the frontier tribes. They pointed out the invidious character of the distinction made between the European and the native Indian subjects of the Queen-Empress. They observed that Parliament in enacting the Civil Service Act of 1870 placed the East Indians on an equal footing with the native Indians for admission into the Government Civil Service by nomination in this country. Similar invidious distinction was made between Indians who were in official employ or held honorary official rank, and those who were not in such employ or held no such rank. They remarked that the official rank, whether stipendiary or honorary, is accidental. Those who were impressed with this stamp, were members of the same community, having a community of sentiments and feelings, and if they were deemed, and rightly too, worthy of the confidence of Government in the use of arms, surely it could not be consistent with justice and good policy to deprive the rest of their countrymen, by no means less deserving, of the common privilege of a loyal subject.

**EMPLOYMENT OF APOTHECARIES.**—The Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation having proposed an amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act of 1876, with a view to compelling the proprietors of dispensaries and drug shops, applying for the registration of the same under the Act, to satisfy the Health-Officer that the sale and dispensing of drugs therein will be supervised by a certified apothecary or other responsible person, the Government acquiesced in the proposal as far as it related to the desirableness of requiring compounders and dispensers of medicine possessing a certificate of competency. Before taking any steps in the matter the Government requested this Association to furnish it with any suggestions they might have to offer on the subject.

The Committee while admitting the desirableness of employing qualified compounders and dispensers of medicine in the private dispensaries and drug shops, observed that no instance had been cited by the Municipal authorities of mischief actually done by the class of compounders now employed. They, however, suggested that whatever legislation might be made with reference to these compounders, it should not affect men employed in Indian drug shops or itinerant vendors, who supply drugs to the humbler classes in the Mofussil. To guard against the contingency of inordinate rise in the price of Europe medicines, consequent on the necessity of employing superior men in the dispensaries, the Committee added that the standard of qualifications to be required of persons desirous to serve as apprentices should be just of such a character as would imply a fair knowledge for the discharge of their duties. The Committee in conclusion observed that in order to afford facilities to the candidates desirous of employment as apothecaries for receiving training for their profession, some arrangement may be made in connection with the vernacular medical schools for such training.

**STAMP DUTY PAYABLE FOR POWERS OF ATTORNEY.** The Board of Revenue of these Provinces issued a circular ruling that a power of attorney executed by more than one person, must bear the full amount of stamp duty for each separate executant or appointed under the deed, and this ruling was being so enforced as to have retrospective effect.

The Committee represented to the local government the inconvenience and hardship to the public that would result from the enforcement of the rule, which they submitted, did not appear to have the sanction of law. They alluded to previous reference made on this subject to the Board and the legal advisers of the Crown, who held that powers executed in a single paper empowering several persons to act on one's behalf were perfectly legal. The Stamp Act of 1869 in specifying the several classes of the powers of attorney and the fees required for them had cleared up all doubts on the question of stamp fee. The Committee further observed that the law could not have contemplated such a serious clog on business in its attempt to derive revenue under the stamp law. Under the circumstances they were constrained to appeal to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for interference in this matter.

The Government in reply was pleased to intimate that the Board's Circular objected to will be withdrawn, and that the difficulties in connection with the

stamp duty for General Powers of Attorney will be settled in the new Stamp Act, and this the Committee are glad to state has been done.

**INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.**—In the annual report of the Association for the year 1876, the Committee noticed their memorial to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, (see report of the 25th general meeting of the Association held on the 12th May 1877) on the new rules for the admission of candidates into the Civil Service of India, in which they prayed that the maximum age of candidates for the Civil Service of India may be raised to 23, the limit fixed on the introduction of the competitive system, and that the examination of native candidates may be held in India. The Right Honorable the Secretary of State intimated that the first prayer was opposed to the policy adopted by Lord Salisbury, and as regards the second, Lord Cranbrook said that it resolves into a question of reserving a certain number of appointments annually for competition in India. On this point he alluded to a correspondence having taken place with the Government of India, but, his Lordship observed, with reference to the precise request contained in the memorial of the Association that he was unable to accede to the wishes of the memorialists.

**CONFERENCE WITH THE DELEGATES FROM THE PUNA SURVAJANIK SABHA.**—A deputation from this Sabha visited Calcutta in the early part of January 1878. They came with a two-fold object, firstly to urge upon the Government the claims of the Poona Arbitration Court, and secondly to hold a conference with the representatives of the Native Press and the political associations in Calcutta for interchange of ideas. The members of the deputation met the Committee at the rooms of the Association on the 9th January 1878. The Committee gave them a cordial reception and informed the delegates that an interchange of ideas between the representatives of different provinces would be highly beneficial to the common cause, and that the British Indian Association would be always glad to cooperate in furtherance of the object.

The questions presented by the deputation for discussion were:

- (1) The Indian Civil Service question upon which a general expression of native opinion has been secured by Babu Soorendranath Banerjee.
- (2) The question of the income tax, which is likely to be imposed to meet famine charges.
- (3) The question of demanding a Parliamentary commission of enquiry into the cause of frequent recurrence of famines of late years, and of the success of the preventive and remedial measures adopted by Government.
- (4) The question of the liberty of the Native Press, about which it is rumoured that the Government is seriously thinking of passing exceptional laws to curb its alleged license.
- (5) The question of the extension of the permanent settlement of land revenue with suitable modifications to other presidencies.
- (6) The policy pursued of late with regard to schools and Colleges for higher education.
- (7) The proposal to levy excise duties upon cotton yarn produced in native mills.
- (8) The question how far reduction in public expenditure can be practically suggested as advisable.
- (9) The question of the withdrawal of State support from the Christian ecclesiastical establishments.
- (10) The question of the enlargement of the Legislative Council by the admission of more non-official native members.
- (11) The question of the extension of the elective franchise in the municipalities of the larger cities in the Mofussil.

These questions were discussed *seriatim* and the Committee informed the deputation that some of these questions had been already anticipated by them as well as by the Government, and that in regard to others unity of action was very desirable.

#### DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT.

Although this melancholy event did not fall within the year under report, the Committee consider it their mournful duty to give it a place in this record. At a special meeting held by them on the 2nd May 1879 they passed the following Resolutions on the subject:

"That the Committee of the British Indian Association desire to place on record the expression of their deep sorrow at the death of their esteemed president, Raja Degumber Mitter C. S. I. The Raja was connected with this Association from its foundation; and during its existence, extending over a period of twenty seven years, he rendered valuable services to it successively as an Honorary Assistant Secretary, a Member of the Committee, a Vice-President, and President. Possessed of great intellectual abilities, rare knowledge of the country, strong common sense, and mature judgment his opinions and advice always commanded attention of the Committee and of the Association generally. Among those who have contributed to the advancement of the Association in usefulness and importance, Raja Degumber Mitter will be always regarded as one of the foremost, and his eminent service will be cherished in grateful remembrance by the members of the Association."

established. The conclusion arrived at was that there must be a very large reduction of expenditure."

So far so good, and we do hope that the Government will faithfully perform what it has evidently under pressure of circumstances promised. For instance Mr. Stanhope promised the reduction of the number of European officers in the Covenanted Civil Service and the more extended employment of educated natives:

"There was one means of reducing the civil charges which had constantly occupied successive Governors of India—he meant the increased employment of the natives. Parliament had on more than one occasion deliberately held out the prospect, which had been embodied in more than one Act of Parliament; it had been the pronounced policy of the country for more than 40 years. But the effect given to that policy had been spasmodic, unsystematic, and altogether incomprehensible by the mass of the natives, while a great increase had taken place in the number of Europeans in some branches of the public service, and various other acts, which had given rise to an idea that the policy announced had been abandoned. It could not be denied that, whatever might be the intentions of successive Secretaries of State, very little progress had been made in giving effect to that policy. But ever since his arrival in India Lord Lytton had applied himself with characteristic vigour to that policy, and accordingly it had now been decided not only that higher offices should be thrown open than those for which natives had hitherto been eligible, but also that there should be a diminished number of covenanted civilians sent from this country, so that a larger occupation might be given to natives. They must not forget that for more than a quarter of a century systematic efforts had been made for the improvement of the education of the natives, and so far as experience had hitherto gone the higher class of administrative offices could not, except in exceptional cases, be entrusted to native officials; but he was quite sure that in the hands of one who had taken so much interest in the question as Lord Lytton, this great reform would be pushed on as quickly as possible. (Hear, hear.)

All this sounds very well, but will anything practical be done? The first thing necessary for the more extended employment of natives in the Civil Service is the excision of the rule reducing the minimum age from 21 to 19 for candidates for the Service, and for the limitation of the percentage of European and Indian candidates for employ. Will the Government make these concessions? One thing is, however, clear that high executive appointments is not to be given to the natives! Is this right? Then the Under-Secretary of State promised a reduction of unproductive public works by three quarters of a million per annum, and of the productive works by about 2 millions. Further he promised a Royal Commission of Enquiry into the army expenditure of India, and announced the appointment of a Committee with Lord Northbrook at the head for the revision of the Home Military Charges. Thus the Government took the wind out of the sails of the Opposition. Mr. Fawcett, who made a very sensible and telling speech, got up and said: "After the speech of the Under-Secretary he regarded his resolution as having been virtually accepted by the Government, and therefore, in order to avoid any unnecessary entanglement as between both sides of the House, he would conclude by asking the House to express its approval of the decision to reduce the expenditure at which the Government had arrived, for he regarded their declaration upon that point as no empty promise." But there were other points, besides those touched upon by Mr. Stanhope, to which he wished to draw the attention of the House. He dwelt upon the repeal of the import duties, the cost of the Afghan war, the loans, the Famine Insurance Fund and the License tax. With regard to the import duties Mr. Fawcett said that "the Indian Government had needlessly and wantonly sacrificed a portion of the revenue derived from the import duties on cotton goods in response to a cry which had been sent up by Lancashire. If all that had been urged in opposition to these duties was absolutely correct, it was surely the height of folly to remit a portion of them at a time when India was in an almost absolutely desperate condition as far as finance was concerned." Mr. Laing's criticisms of the budget are summed up in the following sentences: "The alleged increase of five millions in the revenue of India during the past two years was really

only nominal. When examined it was found to be due to a mere stroke of the pen, and the ordinary items of revenue, instead of being buoyant, were stationary or rather on the decline. Of course, the Government of India were not responsible for the great calamities of famine and the depreciation of silver; but it seemed to him they were to blame for not having realized the situation soon enough and prepared for it by a rigid economy. It was as apparent three years ago as now; yet, instead of practising economy, the Government of India plunged into the Afghan war, of which he would say no more than that it might either have been averted or postponed. Taking a view of Indian finance for a period of years, it would be found that the Government of India had virtually been following the example of Turkey—that was to say, borrowing money to pay the interest of past loans." And Mr. Laing is quite right. Mr. Gladstone thought that after the declarations made by the Under-Secretary of State it would not be fair to press Mr. Fawcett's amendment, and accordingly advised its withdrawal. He said, "he felt strongly that for the present the declarations of the Government have removed all the grounds for a contentious debate, and therefore he did not think that the Government could be called upon to accept the amended motion of the hon. member for Hackney. (Hear, hear.) The more usual course, when a Government announced a policy substantially in accordance with the views of the House, was to trust them to give it effect, and to postpone for a time any points on which there might legitimately be a difference of opinion. It would be better both for the convenience of the House and for the dispassionate consideration of many matters gravely affecting Indian finance if his hon. friend withdrew his amendment, so that they could debate the whole subject without any apparent dissension as to the issue raised by the amendment. And the amendment was withdrawn. But the debate was resumed the day the mail left.

The Indian public have now a basis to go upon for the representation of their grievances regarding the management of Indian Finance. We would suggest a public meeting of all classes for the consideration of the subject, and for the appointment of a standing Committee, consisting of both European and native gentlemen, to urge upon the Government from time to time detailed suggestions for the reduction of expenditure without impairing administrative efficiency.

### LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE glad to learn that the Academia Orientale of the Royal Institution of Turin has appointed Dr. Rajendralala Mitra an academician "in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the cause of oriental studies." The educated natives of India feel honored in the honor done to their distinguished representative.

WE ARE glad to learn that the Government of India proposes to confer upon Babu Shama Churn Dey, the Vice-Chairman elect of the Calcutta Municipality, the title of Rai Bahadur in consideration of his meritorious and distinguished services.

WE ARE glad to learn that the great *zid* case between Babu Judulall Mullick and Babu Kallykissen Tagore about a small strip of land between the garden-houses of the two gentlemen at Barahanagore has at last come to a close. Babu Judulall had won the case in the High Court, and Babu Kallykissen Tagore had appealed to the Privy Council. We are informed that the Privy Council has decreed the appeal of Babu Kallykissen with costs both there and in the High Court. What waste of money has this trumpety case involved!

THE FOLLOWING are the names of the officers appointed to serve on the Commission of Enquiry

into the Military Expenditure and Organisation:—President, Hon'ble Sir Ashley Eden, Members, General Lumsden, General Roberts, Colonel T. D. Baker, Colonel Macgregor, Major O. R. Newmarch, and Mr. C. E. Bernard. A military officer will be appointed by the Madras Government, another by the Bombay Government. Captain E. H. H. Collen will act as Secretary. The Commission will assemble at Simla after a short time, which will be utilized in collecting information. It is hoped that its labours will be closed and the report submitted by the end of October.

WE ARE sorry to learn that the subscribers to the Temple Asylum for the blind, lame and incurables did not at last Saturday's meeting accept the proposal of their President, Maharaja Norendrakrishna, for a free gift to Government of their building, which they have no funds to utilize. There was only one native member present, Rai Kanyelal Dey Bahadur, who supported the Maharaja, but the majority, who were Europeans, resolved that the cost of the building should be taken from Government and that the money should be applied to a refund of the subscriptions to the subscribers. It would have been graceful if they had not taken the cost of the building, as the object of Government is to use it as a small-pox hospital. We believe the majority of the subscribers are natives, and if they had been individually written to for opinion, they would we feel persuaded have supported the Maharaja. It is a pity that the Maharaja did not make a proposition to that effect.

WE HAVE received the following letter from Dacca anent the distress prevailing in Eastern Bengal:

A disastrous famine seems to be impending over the Eastern districts of Bengal. Failure of rains succeeded by sudden floods has caused the destruction of the harvests throughout Dacca, Backergunge, Comilla and Mymensingh. The deafening cry of starvation has reached our town and people are at their wits' end how to meet the formidable calamity.

Our Commissioner, Mr. Fellow, in his last tour through the Manickgunge Sub-division while returning from Goalando, was struck to find about two thousand people crying for want of food. He has returned to the head-quarters and directed the Magistrate to proceed in person to the scenes of distress. He has authorized him to open out works for the distressed people in the way of metalling the road between Goalando and Manickgunge and to distribute food for the relief of the actual sufferers.

The Collector of Dacca has made the usual appeal to the zemindars, one of which we give below. It is addressed to Babus Sreenath Roy, Bykunto Mohun Roy, Mothura Mohun Roy, and Harendralal Roy, of Bhagucool:—

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to draw your attention to the distress that is now prevailing in your zamindaries in the Sub-Division of Moonsheegunge, owing to the present high price of food and to the deplorable condition of ryots of the poorer classes, some of whom are said to live on one meal a day, while others are said to live on kumra, mangoes and fruits and vegetables for want of rice which they cannot procure.

2nd.—At this juncture it is the duty of every zemindar to come forward to assist his ryots and save them from falling a victim to starvation and death, thereby showing his generous nature and public spirit.

3rd.—I should feel much obliged if you will take immediate steps to relieve the sufferings of your own ryots either by distributing rice to the indigent or by giving loans to those who want them. The Mohajun having failed them, it is clearly your duty to fill his place as regards the Ryots.

4th.—I shall be glad to bring to the notice of Government the liberality of all those Zamindars, who will take measures to alleviate the suffering of their Ryots at the present crisis.

The public-spirited Kundu family of Bhagucool have given a prompt and generous response to the appeal of the Collector. We are informed that they have opened relief houses, where they are doling out rice to adult men and women at the rate of six chittacks and to children at the rate of three chittacks per head. We believe other public-spirited zemindars are also coming forward liberally. From Furreedpore we have received a letter, which also gives doleful accounts. There rice is selling at the rate of Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 a maund, and our correspondent says that the poor people are suffering much.

We should, however, observe that all the reports which have reached us, are couched in vague general terms. We should like to know who are the "poor people" that are suffering so much. Is it the *chasas* or agriculturists? If so, where are the splendid profits in consequence of the high price of rice, which they reaped during the last two years, gone to? If it is the artisans, the demand for their labour we believe is as

great as before. Perhaps it is the poor middle class, who cannot make the two ends meet in these days of high prices with their fixed incomes. But they will not beg nor work on the roads. We do not therefore understand, whether the proposed scheme of road works and relief houses will answer the purpose. We await fuller particulars before we express our views on the subject.

THE NESTOR of the Indian Press has passed away! Mr. J. O' B. Saunders, for many years proprietor and editor of the *Englishman*, is dead. An Indigo planter, merchant, and journalist Mr. Saunders was a vigorous specimen of the Anglo-Saxon adventurer of the olden days. In Calcutta he was well known as a partner of the firm of Larpen Saunders and Co. On his failure as a merchant he joined the staff of the *Delhi Gazette*, and also started a magazine called *Saunders' Magazine*. This magazine had a brilliant career for some years. After the Mutiny he carried on business for some time, and was an active member of the Landholders' Association. When the proprietary interest in the *Englishman* after Mr. Cobb Hurry's death was sold, he, Mr. Walter Brett, and, we believe, Mr. Justice Glover, purchased it. It was also said at the time that the Strachays had a share in it, though we do not know whether there was any truth in the rumour. Afterwards Mr. Saunders bought the other shares and became we believe the sole proprietor of his paper. The *Englishman* was always reputed as the organ of the military and the independent European community, but in the early days of Mr. Saunders' proprietary it became a quasi-Government organ. The Strachays found in him an obliging friend. But a change came over the spirit of the *Englishman* with the advent of Mr. Hutton, who conducted it with great spirit and independence. Mr. Saunders did not like the conduct of the paper in Mr. Hutton's hands; as soon as his contract with the latter gentleman expired, he returned to India and resumed the editorial management of the paper. The *Englishman* has since been a moderate paper ready to support the Government, but not altogether indifferent to public interests. The subdued tone of the paper was chiefly due to the influence of its proprietor. His brother Pat. Saunders was also much distinguished for literary abilities. The Saunders in their palmy days were a tower of strength to the non-official European community of Bengal.

THE INDIAN MIRROR publishes the following telegrams regarding the trial of the Poona incendiaries:

Puna, 9th June.—In reference to the confession of the elder Ranade, I hear that the Book Depot was inspected last January. The report of the Deputy Inspector is believed to have been satisfactory; but it was destroyed in the fire. Probably, a copy has been preserved in the Curator's Office, Bombay.

Now that sentence has been pronounced, and that the confessions taken before Mr. Campbell are acknowledged by the prisoners to have been correct, it is generally felt in Poona that these confessions completely negative any suggestion of political purpose, and prove nothing but the vulgar motive of hiding defalcations.

Doubts, however, are entertained as to the Caran's active co-operation. According to the story told, his action seems to have been inexplicable and motiveless.

10th.—During the trial to-day of the incendiaries, the Court was crowded to suffocation. The prisoners pleaded "not guilty." For the prosecution, eight witnesses were examined but the defence, on being asked, said they had none to call, and that all statements previously made were correct. Upon this declaration, considerable excitement was manifested in Court. Mr. Justice Newnam, in addressing the Jury, said only a very few words, and the latter without withdrawing, gave in a verdict of guilty. While sentencing the prisoners, Mr. Newnam said that they had caused irreparable mischief, according to their own admissions. He sentenced the two first prisoners to transportation for life, and the third to ten years. As to their instigators, nothing will be left unturned, notwithstanding the silence of the prisoners on the subject, to discover them.

We hope the *Bombay Gazette* is at last convinced that there was no political conspiracy at the bottom of the Deccan dacoities and Poona fires.

THE ENGLISHMAN has a good article on the waste of money on some questionable agricultural experiments in the North Western Provinces. Our contemporary says: "We are sanguine that when it is considered necessary to adopt the extreme measure of stopping public works on which the development of great tracts

of country depend and of abandoning the most carefully matured projects for the improvement of the administration, expensive gimcracks will not be maintained. If the solid wagons of progress must needs be arrested, surely the road will be cleared of costly gigs which benefit no man or thing, but the drivers. A very light and very costly gig has recently passed before the eyes of the public on its "light bobbing Long-acre springs;" and we trust that, if Government has not already done so, it will now draw the attention of the Jehu to the stoppage of the thoroughfare." After noticing some of the experiments the writer says:

But what possible good can be effected by saying to a nation of petty farmers, of whom, according to Sir John Strachey, 75 per cent. are never out of the money lenders' books, "this is what you may expect to achieve if you spend money ungrudgingly on draining, irrigating, manuring your fields, if you provide yourself with a breed of cattle strong enough to drag improved ploughs, and if you winnow your grain by machinery?" But we would even go further than this, and question whether a much larger expenditure of capital, or a change in the methods and implements of cultivation would result in much increase of profit. In Calcutta we have wealth, enterprise, and the means of procuring all European implements at a moderate cost. Yet two miles from the city we find rice grown precisely as is grown in Dinajpur and Dhaka, and precisely as it was grown before the English name was known in India. In Hughli we have potatoes largely produced, and we have market gardening in all directions round Calcutta, followed with great success. The Baraset model farm had no effect whatever on all this, and if Mr. Buck and his establishment were to settle for a generation in either district, we doubt if there would be any change beyond the limits of his own ploughshares.

Quite so. The truth is as Lord Canning said the Indian agriculturist has not much to learn from the foreigner. But the writer forgets that the agricultural department in the N. W. P. is a creation of the fertile brain of Sir John Strachey, and it is therefore not likely to go even under the pressure of retrenchment.

A FRIEND has sent us the following regarding the Suburban Municipality:

In the hope of finding redress after it appears in your paper, I am emboldened to send you the accompanying programme of business for yesterday's Suburban Municipal Meeting and its proceedings for publication in next Monday's *Patriot*. The hour of meeting was fixed at 4 p. m. The Chairman, Mr. Wells came to the meeting about 20 minutes before the time, and wanted to go on with the meeting with the help of the Road Cess Engineer and Syud Ameer Hossein "a Deputy over the way" (as Dr. Rajendralala once styled these Deputies), and a—but he was stopped from so doing by the Vice-Chairman, who pointed out that it was long before the appointed hour. The meeting, however, was held according to the Chairman's watch, which was found on comparison to be 5 minutes fast, and in about 10 minutes the two most important resolutions were passed, there being only 5 Commissioners sufficient only to form a quorum. Others came in after these two resolutions were carried and several Commissioners both European and native, official and non-official, expressed their surprise at the conduct of the Chairman, and some were ready to send their protests. Such is the way in which the meeting is conducted now. These meetings have now assumed the shape of hole and corner proceedings. I did not go there from February last, and I was quite taken by surprise to find a new procedure for the conduct of business. The Commissioners have been reduced to a mere consultative body in the absence of a Dr. Rajendralala and the like. . . . I may mention here that it had always been the practice during my 8 years' experience, to wait a little while if the meeting is not well represented, and in such cases to put off important matters till full attendance. We have now got a new set of men, the majority of whom, I am sorry to say, are worse than Dummies. Will you kindly question the executive why are not the proceedings published in the papers as before and why is not a paid reporter entertained, as was done during Mr. Peacock's time? Will you say also that Mr. Peacock who has done so much for the Suburban Municipality would see and mend these matters, and as you have said before that it is much to be regretted that a Municipality so near the Lieutenant Governor should be so managed, and that there should be darkness beneath the lamp.

## TELEGRAMS.

(From the Press Commissioner)

Simla, 9th June.—A raft carrying down rifles, sick from Jellalabad to Dakka was upset. Report received says all have arrived at Dakka, no lives lost.

12th. 12h. 35m.—The Punjab contingents will march to Jhalum, and there take Railway on their return to their respective States. Brigadier General Watson's command ceases at Jhalum when he reverts to Political duty. The coronation ceremonies of the King of Bu-mah have ended.

13th. 17h. 35m.—Major Cavagnari reached Peshawar on the twelfth. The Governor of Jellalabad accompanied him to Dakka. He reports that excellent arrangements have been made by the Ameer's authorities for guarding the banks of the Cabul River, between the Jellalabad and the Dakka, and raft with sick and Government stores, pass daily in safety between those places. Captain Tucker accompanies rear Brigade to Dakka. Mohar ed Saduk Khan, son of Nowroz Khan has been appointed Khan of Lalpura.

14th. 12h. 35m.—On proceeding to Cabul Major Cavagnari will be attended by Mr. Jenkins, Lieut. Hamilton of the Guides and Moonshee Bukhtiar Khan.

## MONEY MARKET.

(June 14, 1879.)

### GOVERNMENT LOANS.

|                                                             |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Per Cent. Promissory Notes                                | Rs. 93 10 a 93 14 |
| 4½ Per Cent. of 1870 (1885).....                            | " 95 0 a 95 8     |
| 4½ Per Cent. of 1871 (1881).....                            | " 94 0 a          |
| 4½ Per Cent. of (Trans.) of 1872 (1879) Reduced to 4 p. ct. | " 99 6 a 99 10    |
| 4½ Per Cent. of 1878-79 (1893).....                         | " 99 6 a 99 10    |
| 4½ Per Cent. of 1879 (1893) (New loan),                     | " 99 6 a 99 10    |

### GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES OF 1867.

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5 Per Cent. for 15 years (1882) . Rs. 100 | 4 a 100 8 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|

### CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6 Per Cent. of 1864 (1884) ..... | Rs. 106 0 a 106 0 |
| 6 Per Cent. of 1865 (1885) ..... | " 106 8 a 107 8   |
| 6 Per Cent. of 1866 (1886) ..... | " 107 0 a 108 0   |
| 6 Per Cent. of 1867 (1887) ..... | " 108 0 a 109 0   |
| 6 Per Cent. of 1870 (1890) ..... | " 110 0 a 110 8   |
| 6 Per Cent. of 1872 (1892) ..... | " 110 8 a 111 8   |
| 5 Per Cent. of 1878 (1908) ..... | " 99 0 a 100 0    |

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

### MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

|                                                | Rs. | A. | P. |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Secretary Public Library, Bograh.....          | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Vice-Chairman District Road Cess Committee     |     |    |    |
| Julpigore.....                                 | 6   | 0  | 0  |
| Secretary Reading Club, Lolitpore.....         | 7   | 4  | 0  |
| Synd Ameer Hossain Khan, Bahadoor Elliot Road  | 25  | 7  | 0  |
| P. N. Krishna Murte Esq., Hassan.....          | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| S. Kutubdeen Esq., Bankipore.....              | 6   | 10 | 0  |
| Chairman District Road Cess Committee, Pubna.. | 4   | 0  | 0  |
| Ardesir and Hormasji, Bombay.....              | 31  | 2  | 0  |
| Secretary Jhansi Reading Club.....             | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Secretary, Hameerpur Reading Club.....         | 6   | 10 | 0  |
| Head Master Pubna School.....                  | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Secretary, Bibiganje Reading Club.....         | 3   | 6  | 6  |
| Officiating Superintendent Government Workshop |     |    |    |
| Aligarh.....                                   | 9   | 0  | 0  |
| Officiating Collector, Midnapur.....           | 4   | 0  | 0  |
| Baboo Broja Nath Mookerjee, Mozufferpore.....  | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Kallyprosunno Mojomdar, Rungpore.....          | 19  | 14 | 0  |
| Prosunno Coomar Ghose, Dhoobri.....            | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Huro Chunder Ghose, Hooghly.....               | 6   | 4  | 0  |
| Mohendronarain Bhattacharjee, Bancoorah        | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Jogobundo Dey, Arrah.....                      | 10  | 0  | 0  |
| Punchkoree Banerjee, Jhenidah.....             | 5   | 0  | 0  |
| Dhuroni Dhar Haldar, Nahar Ali Factory         | 10  | 0  | 0  |
| Khetter Chunder Bose, Lucknow.....             | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Nursingh Chunder Mookerjee, Nagpore.....       | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Raj Chunder Ghose, Nolitpore.....              | 13  | 0  | 0  |
| Ombeeca Churn Chowdry, Nagpore.....            | 10  | 0  | 0  |
| Jogobundo Sen, Dibronghar.....                 | 20  | 0  | 0  |
| Ombeeca Churn Mookerjee, Burrisaul.....        | 6   | 10 | 0  |
| Tarruck Nath Mullick, Dabegunge.....           | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Luckhynarain Banerjee, Simla.....              | 6   | 0  | 0  |
| Hurrish Chunder Samonto, Bokhra.....           | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Greesh Chunder Dutt, Cachar.....               | 10  | 0  | 0  |
| Muddon Mohun Ghose, Mooktagacha.....           | 20  | 0  | 0  |
| Chunder Coomar Roy, Noakhally.....             | 26  | 8  | 0  |
| Prosunno Coomar Ghose, Magoorah.....           | 3   | 0  | 0  |
| Kallyprosunno Mookerjee, Nurail.....           | 20  | 0  | 0  |
| Jogobundo Deb Raikhi, Julpiguri.....           | 0   | 8  | 0  |
| Raj Krishna Poramanie, Gya.....                | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Monohar Mookerjee, Buddibatty.....             | 10  | 0  | 0  |
| Annada Persad Kastagir, Kassipur               |     |    |    |
| Hospital.....                                  | 13  | 4  | 0  |
| Kader Nath Ghose, Barielly.....                | 1   | 11 | 0  |

### ERRATUM

For Prosunno Chunder Sen, Kallygunge Rs. ..10 0 0  
Read Prosunno Coomar Das,

## LOCAL.

### BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Hall of the Association on Saturday, the 7th June, 1879, at 5 P.M.

Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadoor, Vice-President, in the Chair.

THE Chairman said, Gentlemen,—Owing to the unavoidable absence of my seniors it has devolved upon me to take the chair to-day. The annual meeting should have been held long ere this but for one melancholy event, which has cast a gloom not only over this Association, but over the whole native community, I allude to the death of our esteemed

president. I need not tell you, who knew well the late Raja Degambar Mitter and fully appreciated his eminent abilities and public services, that the Association has sustained in his death a most severe loss.

We have met this afternoon to celebrate the 27th anniversary of this Association. In this land of disunion and disjunctive action a public institution, which depends for its support upon the mutual good will and co-operation of its members, rarely grows up to this comparatively long age as this Association has done, increasing with the increase of years in vigour, usefulness and influence, and I earnestly and sincerely hope, that the same beneficent influences will continue to contribute to the prosperity of the Association for years to come.

The annual report which will be immediately submitted to you shows that the activity of the Association during the past year was as continuous and well-directed as ever. There was scarcely any public question of any importance bearing upon the weal of the people of Bengal, which required elucidation and advocacy from the Committee, but which did not engage their attention. In many cases their opinion was invited by Government; in others it was volunteered by them, and in all cases the subjects were discussed with but one object in view, viz., the good of the country.

We are now nearly six months in advance of the year under review and during this period there were some burning questions taken up by the Association such as the remission of the cotton duties, the cost of the Afghan war, and the financial situation of the country, but I will not notice them now as they do not fall within the scope of this annual report. I will now call upon you to proceed with the business of the day.

Dr. Rajenlalala Mitra moved the following amendment for Rule 25 of the Rules of the Association:—

The annual general meeting of the Association shall be held under the following rules, and for the transaction of the following business:

(a) The meeting shall be held on the last Wednesday of January every year, or on any subsequent day to which the Committee of Management shall defer it by a formal resolution.

(b) Notice of the meeting and of the hour at which it is to be held shall be given by a circular addressed to each resident member of the Association, and also by advertisement in two or more newspapers of the town of Calcutta.

(c) The business to be transacted at the meeting shall be, 1st, to elect the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Members of the Committee of Management for the ensuing year; 2nd, to receive the annual report and accounts prepared by the Committee of Management; 3rd, to transact any business of which due notice has been given to the Committee of Management, or at an ordinary general meeting of the Association; 4th, to consider such subjects of general interest as may be brought forward for the purpose.

(d) No person who has held the office of President or Vice-President during the preceding year shall be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of one year.

(e) In the event of the post of Secretary being held by a paid officer, no vote shall be taken for the election of a Secretary.

The substance of his amendment, he said, was contained in clause (d), which provided for the election of their President and Vice-Presidents. Before advertising to the reasons which had induced him to bring forward the proposition, he would remark that the only grave objection that he might anticipate to be brought forward against it was, that they should leave well alone, as the Association had had a brilliant career of seven and twenty years, and that it had not failed in any single instance to display its activity, energy and usefulness in all matters that it had to deal with, and that since it had discharged its duties so successfully and for so long a time, under the present rules, it might be fairly argued that no change was necessary. It was born, like Minerva, armed cap a pie, and had grappled with the most difficult problems with consummate tact and ability. Its very first act was a memorial to the House of Commons on the charter question; and for seven and twenty years, no question of political importance had come up before Government or before the people of which it had not taken notice. With a singleness of purpose for the good of the community it represented, it had discussed and taken action on all matters connected with the well-being of the people, and invariably displayed the highest wisdom, knowledge and forethought in whatever it did. It included in its ranks the elite of the native community, and was never found wanting. But those who gave it birth, and took a paternal interest in its success, were nearly all gone. The duration of Bengali generation was scarcely more than 40 years, and nearly that period had been completed. Of the many who were instrumental in founding the Institution, he (the speaker) saw at the meeting only his venerable friend to his left, (Baboo Joykissen Mukerjee) and the gentleman behind him (Baboo Peary Chand Mitra) all his other early associates had been numbered with their ancestors. Those who had succeeded them were doubtless able men, willing to work in earnest in the cause of Indian amelioration; but they brought not that paternal solicitude for the good of the Association which its founders did. It was impossible that they should feel as keenly for the Association as those who brought it into existence and reared it up. It was necessary therefore to adopt a different course to infuse new blood, to encourage the members to take a deep interest in bringing them into intimate association with the machinery of the institution, and to throw more weight on their shoulders than what they have. By such a course the members would be made to identify themselves more intimately with the association than what they did at present. Human nature was human nature, and there was at the bottom of it a layer of self which could not be got over. Liberality, public spirit, patriotism, were good things in their way, but they were all more or less influenced by the ego, and it was desirable that the ego should be borne in mind in devising means for the improvement of worldly institutions. To overlook it is to overlook the mainspring of human action. It was with a view to influence that self that the amendment had been designed, and the speaker hoped that it would meet with the cordial support of the meeting. When the existing rule for the election of these officers was first designed, it was the intention that they should be changed from time to time, for provision was made that they should be elected every year, at the annual

general meeting; but the practice had come to be different, and incumbents of these offices had been converted into fixtures until they were removed by death. He objected to this species of life-interest, and was in favor of the Association electing its office-bearers after the manner of similar institutions elsewhere. The practice, however, was different. The first President who was elected had held the office for 16 years, the last four years of which he had passed at Brindaban. His illustrious name was borne on the rolls nevertheless; his name remained as long as he lived. The second President did not long occupy the vacated office. The third had vacated his office temporarily for particular reasons, resumed it, and left when he was transferred to another region, and the fourth held the office till his death. Thus the President and the Vice-Presidents too, the Chairman would pardon him for saying so, had hitherto been like the old man of the sea, not removable except by death. He did not like this. He thought an improvement would be made, and increased activity secured, and wider co-operation obtained by a new system. Every French mother fondly cherished the idea that her son was born with a marshal's baton in his wallet, if the Association held out the hope to everyone of its members that, if he was not like every Frenchman, actually born with a marshal's baton in his pocket, he was eligible for the service of their President, it would do an immense deal of good. The speaker also wished to add in confidence and by way of an aside, that he had a strong leaning to republican ideas, and thought one man as good as another for these offices if the two persons were equal in point of ability; broad acres and long purses, or distinguished pedigrees, did not, in his opinion, confer a right to the leadership of the association. He thought that even as rulers were intended for the service of the people, and not the people for the good of rulers, so presidents were wanted for the service of the Association, and not the Association for the honor of its presidents. Active, earnest, and disinterested devotion to the good of the Association was what was wanted in a president, and he would be the best president who would bring it best; and in selecting presidents and vice-presidents, the members should look to that quality more than to accidental adjuncts. Among the members of the Association there were many who could act creditably as their office-bearers, and the speaker did not at all apprehend that there would be any difficulty in obtaining fitting candidates for office in future years. He wished to add that as he was himself one of their Vice-Presidents, no one could suspect him of being prompted by personal feeling in making this proposition, for he would be one of those who would lose their offices next year.

Baboo Judo Lal Mullick had great pleasure in seconding the motion, especially as eight years ago, when a President was being elected, he had put forth this very suggestion—but the very gentleman who moved it now had then snubbed him, by saying "political heads were not as plentiful as blackberries."

The motion was put and carried.

Motion put and carried.

The annual report of the Committee was next read:

(See Supplement).

The accounts were next laid on the table.

Baboo Joykissen Mukerjee moved that the report be received and adopted and that the accounts be passed.

Baboo Sreenath Chunder seconded the motion.

Baboo Ashutosh Dhur in supporting the motion called attention to the satisfactory management of the finances of the Association and to the steady growth of its funded capital, which now amounted to Rs. 23,500.

Motion put and carried.

Baboo Ashutosh Dhur next proposed the election of the following gentlemen to be office-bearers for the current year: Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore, Bahadur,—President.

Moharaja Norendra Krishna Bahadur,  
Raja Sittyanund Ghosal Bahadur,  
Raja Hurrendra Krishna Bahadur,  
Babu Rajendralala Mitra, Roy Bahadur L.L.D., C.I.E. } Vice-Presidents.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Raja Rajendra Narain Deb Bahadur, Baboo Peary Mohun Mukerjee  
Bahadur, " Tariny Churn Banerjee,  
Baboo Joy Kissen Mukerjee, " Deno Nath Mullick,  
" Peary Chand Mitra, Newab Mir Mohamed Ali  
Bahadur, " Doorga Churn Law, Bahadur  
Hon'ble Raja Promotho Nath Roy, Bahadur  
Kumar Debender Mullick, Baboo Nurendra Nath Sen,  
Newab Ameer Ali Bahadur, Newab Ahmed Ali Bahadur,  
Baboo Rasbehary Ghose, Harjeeblai Manickjee, Rastomjee, Esq.,  
Baboo Gobind Lal Seal, Baboo Obhoy Churn Goho,  
Baboo Chunder Kant Mukerjee, Hon'ble Mohiny Mohun Roy,  
" Krishna Mohun Mullick, Newab Asghar Ali Delwar  
" Judo Lal Mullick, Jung Bahadur C.S.I.,  
" Greesh Chunder Ghose, Baboo Sham Churn Law,  
Kumar Kanti Chunder Singh, " Saligram Singh,  
Baboo Ashutosh Mullick,

Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal Rai Bahadur C.I.E., Secretary.

Babu Gonesh Chunder Chunder seconded the motion.

Motion put and carried.

Here Raja Harendrakrishna vacated the chair for the newly elected president.

Maharaja Jotendromohun Tagore, on taking the chair said:—I thank you much, gentlemen, for the honor you have done me. No one perhaps is more conscious of his own shortcomings than I am, and I am free to confess that I feel considerable diffidence in being called upon to fill the place which has been hitherto occupied by such distinguished men

as the late Raja Sir Radhakant, the Hon'ble Prosanno Cooma Tagore, the Maharaja Romanath Tagore and Rajah Degumber Mitter. Indeed, I can scarcely hope that I shall be able to fill the President's chair (though it be for the year) with any degree of usefulness to you. But since you have been pleased to place confidence in my humble self, all that I can say is that it shall always be my best endeavour to deserve that confidence, but if after that I fail, I must find consolation in the words of the Sanscrit poet—

"বন্ধু কৃতে যদি ন সিধ্যতি কোহত্র দোষঃ"।

Babu Pearychand Mittra then rose and spoke to the following effect:

I am not at all pleased to see the name of the Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore smuggled in as the President of the Association, surely this should have been done by a suitable resolution, preceded by a resolution expressive of our warmest acknowledgements for his past services. The Maharaja joined the Association as the Honorary Secretary in 1860 and has since been most zealous in co-operating with the Assistant Secretary in promoting the interests of the Association in every possible way. He has been most regular in his attendance and every question, which came before the Committee, received his attention. Being himself a zemindar and largely acquainted with the state of the country he made his notes and opinions extremely useful to the Committee. When the Maharaja was appointed a member of the Imperial Council, it was expected that the Maharajah would retire from the Association, but it was really pleasing to observe that the Maharajah from a desire of serving his country, continued to hold the office of Honorary Secretary in a spirit of humility, thereby proving the Maharaja's spiritual nature. I beg to move the following resolution which I have no doubt will be carried by acclamation.

That this meeting expresses its grateful thanks to the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotendromohun Tagore Bahadur for having so long, so ably, and so zealously performed the duties of Honorary Secretary to the Association.

Haji Noor Mahomed seconded the motion.

Motion put and carried.

The President again thanked the meeting in the following terms: It is said that "from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh," but there are times when from the fullness of the heart the tongue refuses to speak. The latter, gentlemen, is the case with me now; if therefore I am unable adequately to express my thanks to you for your generous appreciation of my humble services, believe me gentlemen, it is not from any want of feeling but from want of words to give expression to my feeling.

Baboo Peary Chand Mittra, again rose and addressed as follows: I cannot allow the Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal to be appointed to the office of Secretary so unceremoniously and without a suitable acknowledgement of his past services. The Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal, joined the Association as Assistant Secretary in 1858 and from what I have seen of him, I look upon him as a model Secretary. Whenever any question was before the Committee, he was indefatigable in collecting information from records and books and from friends here and in the Mofussal competent to throw light on the question. With him it was the invariable rule to exhaust every enquiry before he submitted the question for discussion. It is true that he had not seen the whole country and his anxiety was therefore the more to acquaint himself thoroughly with all questions and to know them in all their bearings that justice might be done to all classes. All our memorials, petitions, important letters are chiefly the emanations from his brain and clearly prove his high culture. You may buy with money higher ability but no amount of money can secure the devotion and love of the country, which the Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal, as shown in the performance of his duties. For the most valuable services rendered by the Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal as Assistant Secretary, which cannot be measured by money value and for his bonhomie and affabilities endearing himself to every one he has entitled himself to our best acknowledgements. It gives us now great pleasure to see him installed as the Secretary of the Association. May his future career be equally useful to the Association and the country.

The Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal in a few words returned thanks.

The names of the under-mentioned gentlemen were then submitted for election as members of the Association.

Kumar Amarendrakrishna, of Sobha bazar Raj Family proposed by the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotendromohun Tagore and seconded by Dr. Rajendralala Mittra.

Babu Konjobehary Mullick, landholder, Calcutta, proposed by Babu Peary Chand Mittra and seconded by Kumar Deben-dra Mullick.

Babu Durgaprosunno Ghose, landholder, Calcutta, proposed by Babu Jodulal Mullick and seconded, by Raja Harendra Krishna.

Babu Jogendra Chunder Ghose, Zemindar, Kidderpore, 24-Pergunnas, proposed by Babu Doorga Churn Law and seconded by Babu Joykissen Mookerjee.

**Motion put and carried.**  
Submitted a letter from Government with enclosures invit-ing the opinion of the Association on the propriety of extend-ing certain provisions of the B.M. for the relief of Deccan ryots to Bengal.

Babu Peary Chand Mittra moved that the communication be referred to the Committee for consideration and disposal. Babu Bhagubutty Churn Mullick seconded the motion.

**Motion put and carried.**  
Read a notification in the Calcutta Gazette which contains a rule providing that all communications regarding bills pend-ing before the council of the Governor General from public bodies should be forwarded through the local Government.

Babu Joykissen said that this rule would cause great prac-tical inconvenience, and on emergent occasions would virtually result in a suppression of the public voice, for by the time a representation would reach the council through the local Government the bill to which it would refer might become law. He therefore moved that a representation be addressed to Government protesting against the new Rule.

Babu Doorga Churn Law seconded the motion.  
**Motion put and carried.**  
Thanks were next voted to the Chair and the meeting separated.

## Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—June 12, 1879.

**GENERAL.**—Baboo Sree Nath Chatterjee, temporary Sub Deputy Collector, Durbhunga, is transferred to Hajepore, in the district of Mozufferpore.

Mr. P. T. Rebello, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Mozufferpore, is transferred to the District of Durbhunga, for employment on land registration work in that district.

Baboo Denonath Ghose, Sub-Deputy Collector, is empow-ered, under Section 32 of the "Bengal License Act, 1878," to hear petitions of objections to assessments and to collect the tax under the aforesaid Act in the district of Bankoora.

Baboo Mahanund Gooptha, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Julpigore, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. J. Kelleher, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Back-ergunge, is allowed furlough for two years, under section 21 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 14th August next, or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it, together with subsidiary leave for twenty days under section 34 of the Code.

Baboo Ram Narain Banerjee, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (B.C.) of 1871.

Mr. J. G. Charles, reported his departure from India on furlough on the 6th May 1879.

Mr. A. J. Primrose, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bagdogra, Rungpore, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may be relieved.

Mr. G. B. Lyon Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Rung-pore, is appointed to have charge of the Bagdogra division of that district, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. A. J. Primrose, or until further orders.

Mr. H. Gillon, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave is posted to the Sudder Station of Rung-pore district.

**POLICE.**—Baboo Probhat Chunder Chatterjee, Inspector of Police, First Grade, is appointed to act until further orders, as an Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Baboo Kader Nath Roy, Additional Moonsif of Nelpamaree, in Rungpore, is transferred to Patna, and will be ordinarily posted at the Sudder Station of that district.

Moulvi Mahomed Nurool Hossein, Subordinate Judge of Shahabad, is appointed to be Second Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot.

Baboo Rampersad, Second Subordinate Judge, Tirhoot, is appointed to be Subordinate Judge of Shahabad.

Baboo Nil Madhub Shamanta, B.L., Moonsif of Putnitollah, is appointed to be a Moonsif in the district of Dinagepore. The Baboo will ordinarily be employed at Putnitollah in that district.

Mr. G. T. St. A. Nixon, Assistant Engineer, in charge of the Daoodnugur sub-division of the Eastern Sone Division, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Third Class, for the trial of offences under Act III (B.C.) of 1876.

Baboo Juggut Durlabh Bysakh, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Moonsif of Persepore, in the district of Backer-gunge, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Poorno Chaud-er Roy, or until further orders.

## Advertisements.

### NOTICE.

This will serve as a Notice to His Honor the Raj Moharaj Kamul Krishna Deb Bahadoor, Baboo Mo-hunlal Mittra, Rai Geerish Chunder Das Bahadoor, Hon'ble Kistodas Pal, Rai Bahadoor, and others, that, I am going to share their company in the institution of Bedant Sashtar within the 25th Srawun next, when the rains will well set in, in the interim, materials are sent down to Shambazar triangled road to erect a puekah "Tole" as formerly proposed by  
KALEEPUD GHOSAL.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Com-missioners of the Town of Calcutta. will be held at the Town Hall, this day, at 4 P.M.

### BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To consider the water extension project,
2. The Chairman to submit for confirmation Proceed-ings of Tank Committee, 3rd May 1879.
3. Proceedings of the Town Council, dated 10th, 17th, 22nd, and 3rd May 1879.
4. Proceedings of the Special Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the Collector's Department, dated 14th May 1879.
5. Vital Statistics for the month of April 1879.

R. WILLIAMSON,  
Offg. Secy. to the Corporation.

### WANTED.

A Head-master for the H. C. English School at Magura Sub-division, in Jessore, salary Rs. 60 per month. Preference will be given to B. A. Graduates.

Applications to reach the undersigned on or before the 25th instant. None need apply who cannot guarantee for at least a year's stay here.

PROSONNO COOMAR GHOSE, B.L.,

Secretary,  
Magura, H. C. E. School.

The 12th June, 1879.

### বিজ্ঞাপন।

সেকাল আর একাল। জীৱজনাৱায়ণ বস্তু প্রণীত  
সংসোধিত ও পরিবৰ্দ্ধিত আর দ্বিতীয় বার মুদ্রিত। নং  
৩৮, শ্রামপুত্র জীট, হুতন বাদলা যত্রে প্রাপ্য। মূল্য ৯০  
ডাকমাসুল ০

### ADVERTISEMENT.

There are twelve vacancies for European, Eurasian and Native lads in the Dehree Training School for Mechanics. Applications from candidates desirous of admission will be received up to the 15th August next. None need apply who are below 15 or over 17 years of age.

Forms and other information may be obtained at the Office of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, 12 Writer's Buildings, Calcutta.

Fort William. } D. B. HORN,  
The 26th May, 79. } Assistant Chief Engineer.

## F. & C. OSLER.

12, OLD COURT HOUSE STREET,

CALCUTTA.

BY APPOINTMENT GLASS MANUFACTURERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

MANUFACTORY, BROAD STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

GOLD MEDAL FOR GLASS.—PARIS EXHIBITION 1876.

**Manufacturers** of Crystal and colored Glass Chandeliers, Candelabra and Wall Lights, Crystal Fountains, Table Glass, &c.

**Manufacturers** and patentees of Kerosine and other Oil Lamps for use under the punkah in India.  
**Importers** of Mirrors, Bronzes, Bohemian and other continental Glass-ware, porcelain services and porcelain ornaments.

## CHANDELIERS.

F. and C. Osler beg to call attention to the superb stock of Chandeliers, Candelabra, and Wall Lights now arranged for sale in their show-rooms in Calcutta. They invite inspection. These goods are the Manufacture of their own Firm, and in point of elegance of form, purity of colour, and richness of cutting, are of the very best description. F. and C. Osler's stock is very large and they are prepared to undertake the lighting of palaces of Indian noblemen with Chandeliers, burning candles, gas or kerosine, at short notice and on favourable terms.

Chandeliers in frosted and cutglass for candles, gas, or kerosine 3, 6, 8 and 12 lights.  
Ditto in richly cut crystal Glass for Ditto from 3 to 60 lights.

Designs and prices given for Chandeliers of any size up to 500 lights.

Chandeliers burning kerosine, fitted with Osler's patent duplex burners, with illuminating power equal to 24 candles.

Colored Chandeliers in great variety 3,4,6,8,12,18, and 24, lights in ruby, amber, green or blue.

## WALL LIGHTS.

Crystal or colored, for gas, candles, or kerosine, to Match Chandeliers

## CANDELABRA.

In Crystal Glass 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, and 31 lights.  
In ruby or green, 4 to 25 lights.

## KEROSINE LAMPS.

Table Lamps in Crystal Glass fitted with Osler's patent duplex burners.  
Hanging Lamps, handsome patterns, duplex burners Wall Lamps, new designs very elegant and attractive fitted with duplex burners.

## MIRRORS.

Venetian and other Mirrors, selected from designs in the Paris Exhibition.  
Drawing room decorative ornaments in great variety.

F. & C. OSLER.  
Calcutta.

## NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

### President.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE, K.T.

### Vice-Presidents.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, K.G.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.

### General Court of Directors.

Right Hon'ble Lord Lawrence, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., & P.C.,  
Chairman.

### Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE  
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY,  
Held at Edinburgh on Friday 4th April, 1879.

The Directors submitted the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December, 1878.

### Life Business.

During the year there were issued 1034 Policies, as-suring £1,034,651, the new Premiums on which amount to £33,022-17-8.

The Claims which occurred during the year, includ-ing 20 Endowments, were 262 in number, arising under 322 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amount, with Bonus additions, to the sum of £220,243-10, after deducting reassurances.

The Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,852,566-11-8, being £140,689-19-8 above what it was on 31st December, 1877. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

### Annuity Business.

In the Annuity Department 55 Bonds were issued securing the sum of £2,969-0-6 yearly, and for which, the Company received the sum of £28,892-9-4.

### INDIAN BRANCH. CHIEF OFFICE FOR INDIA.

1, HASTING STREET, CALCUTTA.

### Local Board of Directors:

R. A. Lyall, Esq. (Lyall, Rennie & Co.,) Merchant.  
E. T. Roberts, Esq., Solicitor.

Robert Steel, Esq., Merchant.

General Agents for India: ROBERTS, MORGAN  
& CO., No. 1, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE  
AT BOMBAY.

Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction.

In the matter of the Indian Companies Act X of 1866 and in the matter of the Colaba Spinning and Weaving Company Limited in Liquidation.

Henry Randall Cormack  
Nowrozjee Furdoonjee and  
Michael Rozaris de Quadros } Official Liquidators.

**Notice.**

Pursuant to an order of the Court in the above matter the official Liquidators will on Wednesday, the 16th day of July, 1879, at 3 p.m., cause the following property to be put up for sale by public auction in one lot at their office, No. 28, Apollo Street, Fort, unless the said property shall have been previously sold by private contract on or before Monday, the 7th day of July, 1879.

The sale shall extend to the right, title and interest only of the above Company and shall be subject to the confirmation of the Court.

Private offers for the purchase of the property will be received upto 4 p.m., on Thursday, the 3rd day of July, 1879.

For conditions of sale, Inventories of plant, machinery, stores and cotton in process of manufacture and other particulars, application is to be made to official Liquidators at their above office or to Messrs. Ardesir and Hormasji their Solicitors.

The property will be on view on and from Monday, the 2nd day of June, 1879.

Dated this 28th day of May, 1879.

ARDESIR AND HORMASJI.

Attorneys for the official Liquidators.

*Firstly.*—All that piece or parcel of leasehold land containing by admeasurement 5616 square yards or thereabouts situate at Colaba in the Registration Sub-district of Fort and Colaba in Bombay and bounded on the North by a Private Road of the new Colaba Company, Limited, separating the property from the Scott Press, on the East by a private road of the said New Colaba Company separating the said property from the Prince of Wales Press, on the South by a private road of the said New Colaba Company, Limited, separating the said property from the Indian Press Company's property and on the West by another private road of the said New Colaba Company separating the said property from the godowns belonging to the said New Colaba Company, Limited.

*Secondly.*—All that piece or parcel of Leasehold land containing by admeasurement 4417 square yards or thereabouts situate at Colaba in the Registration Sub-district of Fort and Colaba in Bombay and bounded on the North and West by the property of the New Colaba Company, Limited, now in the occupation of the Indian Press Company, Limited, on the South by a private road of the said New Colaba Company, Limited, dividing the property from the Basin of water now held by the said Colaba Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, and on the East by another private road of the said New Colaba Land Company.

*Thirdly.*—All the messuages, tenements, buildings, factories and out-houses standing on the said two pieces or parcels of land or on either of them and all the appurtenances thereto, and all the Engines, boilers, Looms, Spindles, Machinery, Implements, plant and appurtenances of every kind affixed to the said pieces or parcels of land and premises.

*Fourthly.*—All the stores in the godowns of the mill of the said Company and all cotton in process of manufacture in the said Mill.

**SALE OF LANDED PROPERTY.**

At the office of the Receiver of the High Court, on Wednesday, the 6th July next, at 12 o'clock noon, will be put up for sale by public auction, the under-mentioned properties belonging to the estate of the late Nundo Lal Nauth.

House No. 1, Patwar Bagan Lane.

One moiety of the house No. 20, Blackburns Lane.

One moiety of the Land No. 23, Burtollah Street.

A piece of land at Pagladangha, Tangra.

One moiety of Garden land at Barranagore, Allum Bazar.

For further particulars and abstract of title apply to Baboo Morally Dhur Sen, 8 Strand, or to the undersigned.

J. C. MACGREGOR,  
Receiver, High Court.

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**NOTICE.**

Baboo Khetter Nauth Bhattacharjee (late of the Public Works and Road Cess Department) will undertake to design and superintend the construction of Buildings and to act as an Engineer and Surveyor in the partition of House and landed properties. Communications to be addressed to him at 70/1 Sookea's Street, Calcutta.

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**NOTICE****DISTRICT CHARITABLE SOCIETY.**

The Office of the above Society is at 19/1 Lal Bazaar Street.

Applications for relief will be received from 11 A. M. to 3 P. M. daily.

J. LAMBERT

Hony. Secy. District Charitable Society.  
30th May, 1879.

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Traffic Supdt.'s Office Somastipur May 29th, 1879.

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On and after Monday 2nd June this Railway will be opened through to Gya for passenger and Goods Traffic. Trains will leave Gya at 4-40 A. M., and Bankipore at 12 noon daily.

For further information vide Time Tables, dated 28th May 1879. And apply to undersigned.

Traffic Supdt.'s Office, MOWBRAY JOHNSTON,  
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GENTLEMEN,—I enclose two currency notes of ten rupees each and beg you will kindly send me eight bottles more (large size) of your famous "Infallible Pain-Curer" which is undoubtedly worthy of its name. Yours most obediently, Digambar Pershad, English teacher to Baboo Sreedhur Sahi, Zemindar of Manjha, camp Ajodhya in Fyzabad.

Rev. Mother of St. Joseph's Convent, Bandora, Bombay Presy, writes:

Dear Sirs,—We find the Infallible Pain-Curer efficacious, and are glad to know of it as being a useful medicine.

I remain, Yours truly, SISTER THEODORINE.  
Superioress Felia de la Croix.

Gentlemen,—I herewith send you the value and shall feel obliged by your sending me by post another bottle (large size) of the Infallible Pain-Curer. I find that the medicine is doing me great deal of good.

CHINTAMAN SAKHARAM CHITNIS, Subordinate Judge, Kaira, Guzerath, Bombay Presidency.

Dear Sirs,—Your Infallible Pain-Curer, which was sent to Baboo Rajkisor Chatterjee Toondia has done him good and he writes me to send him another bottle as early as possible. Will you have the goodness to send up without delay another bottle (large size) of the same sort you forwarded last time to him. Yours faithfully,

KISOBY MOHUN CHATTERJEE, 4 Fairlie Place, Calcutta.

Gentlemen,—Lately I had taken from you a bottle of your famous "No More Pains" which has almost relieved me of all my pains. I beg to enclose a remittance in postage stamps, and hope you will be pleased to send me another bottle of the same medicine.

Yours faithfully, RAJENDRA NATH CHATTERJEE, Hallisgar Khasbatty, via Kancharparah, Camp Rungow.

Gentlemen,—I enclose Telegraph Stamps, and beg you will kindly send me another bottle of your "Infallible Pain-Curer," which is undoubtedly worthy of its name.

Yours faithfully,  
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(Sd.) F. CLARKE,

Offg. Administrator General.

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